

THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

January-February 2012

Partnerships Make All The Difference

By Bob Power

SCVAS Executive Director

When we needed significant analysis done on the Gavilan College development proposed for Coyote Valley in 2007, we approached Ralph Schardt, Executive Director of the Michael Lee Environmental Foundation, for help. Ralph and the Foundation came through. Ralph and his Board of Directors have come through for us time and time again. In 2010 our Burrowing Owl documentary was 80% complete but in danger of foundering. Ralph and his Board provided the necessary support to get us to the finish line and finalize and distribute that documentary. Now, once again in 2011, the Michael Lee Environmental Foundation stepped forward to sponsor our Wildlife Education Day. The Foundation's belief in the work that we do has created a lasting partnership in environmental conservation.



Ralph Schardt at SCVAS' Wildlife Education Day 2011

Renee Fitzsimons of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) has been educating and entertaining south bay children and families for years through her role as Docent Programs Coordinator. One day we were talking about a scavenger hunt put on by Renee's church, and from that conversation came a three year partnership with MROSD featuring an annual scavenger hunt (The Amazing Bird Chase) and this year's Nature Camp. Renee's enthusiasm for kids' outdoor education has fueled another partnership that adds significant value beyond what we could offer standing on our own.

2012 Brings Adventure Galore with "Premier Destination" Trips.

-see Page 5



Renee Fitzsimons sharing the wonders of the natural world with the next generation

beyond what we could offer standing on our own.

When we started to explore the issues surrounding the Solargen Development in Panoche Valley, Kim Selesky was there for us. Kim lives in Panoche Valley, knows everything there is about Panoche Valley, or researched everything that came up

(continued on page 11)

General Membership Meetings Cubberley Community Center, Rm H1

Palo Alto - Middlefield & Montrose Rds

(Detailed directions available online at www.scvas.org or by calling the SCVAS office)

Wednesday, January 18th

A Tale of Two Colonies

Kristie Nelson & Caitlin Robinson-Nilsen

Historically, California Gulls nested exclusively at arid, inland lakes such as Mono Lake. In 1980, Mono Lake gulls abandoned their historic colony location in response to coyote predation and lowered lake levels and began breeding in the San Francisco Bay. By 2010, this population had grown to over 46,000 birds. Join PRBO Conservation Science's Kristie Nelson and SFBBO's Caitlin Robinson-Nilsen to learn about the history of these two colonies, the impacts on local shorebirds, and current California Gull research.



Caitlin Robinson-Nilsen examines a California Gull chick

Wednesday, February 15th

Unraveling the Mystery of Avian Navigation with Jon Hagstrum

After more than 50 years of intensive study, the ability of homing and migratory birds to navigate over great distances remained a mystery. Jon Hagstrum's research solves the mystery of perplexing behavior by birds - birds are listening to the landscape to find their way! Join Jon as he helps explain everything from the physics of infrasonic waves to the deviations in behavior of migrating pigeons over large lakes.



Jon Hagstrum leads a field trip with his geology students

♦ *Fall Was the Time for Rarities - A Yellow-billed Loon, Ashy Storm-Petrel, two Red-throated Pipits, and a continuing Painted Bunting mark the season.*

— Field Notes, Page 6

♦ *Get Ready for the Spring Birdathon!*
— Pages 8 & 9

♦ *Young Audubon Winter Adventures!*
— Pages 8 & 12

♦ *New Monitors Wanted for the Cavity Nesters Recovery Program.*

— Page 11

Jan - Feb '12 Field Trips

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

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

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

Sunday 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 as we attempt to track down some of the unusual birds seen on the Christmas Bird Counts in Santa Clara County. **Directions:** 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. **Notes:** Bring a full tank of gas, lunch, and field guides. Be prepared to car pool as parking may be limited at some sites. **RC**

Monday Jan. 2 - No Field Trip Mt Hamilton CBC

Wednesday Jan. 4, 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. **Directions:** Donald M. Somers Water Pollution Control Plant, junction of Borregas and Caribbean. Meet at trailhead at north end. **Difficulty Level:** Birding geared toward beginners. **Notes:** Bring binoculars; loaners also available. **RC**

Saturday Jan. 7, 8:00 AM Ogier Ponds

Half day. **Leader:** Kirsten Holmquist (408) 747-0988. **Directions:** 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 the road (meet at the gate if the entrance is locked). **RC**

Sunday Jan. 8, 8:00 AM Panoche Valley

Full day. **Leader:** Clay Kempf (831) 761-8260. **Directions:** Meet at Paicines Store on Hwy 25 approx. 11 miles south of Hollister. **Notes:** 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 *The Avocet 2*

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. FRS radios (Walkie-Talkies) set to channel 11 may prove useful on this trip. **IMPORTANT:** Do not expect to use the restrooms at the Paicines Store, as their use is limited to paying customers (we encourage patronage of local businesses).

Wednesday Jan. 11, 9:00 AM Coyote Lake County Park, Gilroy

Half day. **Leader:** Bill Barnhart, (408) 779-6123. **Directions:** In Gilroy, take Leavesley Rd. (exit 357) east from Hwy 101 for 1.8 miles. Turn left on New Ave., in .6 miles turn right on Roop Rd. Stay on Roop Rd. for 3 miles (there will be a "T" intersection - turn left to stay on Roop) and take a left into the park entrance on Coyote Reservoir (Lake) Rd. Meet in the first parking lot on the right (Lakeview Picnic Area). **Notes:** Possible entrance fee. **RC, LO**

Saturday Jan. 14, 8:15 AM Arastradero OSP

Half day. **Leader:** Rich Page (408) 377-1092. **Directions:** From I-280 take Page Mill Rd. west; turn right on Arastradero Rd. and meet in the parking lot about 1/2 mile on the right. **Difficulty Level:** Moderate walking. **RC**

Sunday Jan. 15, 9:00 AM San Francisco's Southern Parks

Half Day. **Leader:** Alan Hopkins (415) 664-0983, Cell phone (415) 794-0281. **Directions:** Heading north on Hwy 101 take the Candlestick/3Com Park off ramp just after passing Brisbane Lagoon. Continue east along Harney Way and turn right onto Jamestown/Hunters Point Expwy. If no locked gate is encountered then 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 (if gate is locked, meet in front of gate). **Notes:** We'll choose 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. **RC**

Saturday Jan. 21, 8:00 AM Los Capitancillos Ponds

Half day. **Leader:** Ann Verdi (408) 266-5108. **Directions:** If coming from Hwy 85, go south on Camden Ave. just past Blossom Hill Rd. Singletree Way is the next left turn-off near Beacon School. Park on the street, we will meet at the trail entrance located on the right just beyond the power plant. **Notes:** We will bird ponds that are often filled with a wide variety of waterfowl and Gulls, a nearby creek for riparian birds, as well as other areas closely related habitats. **RC**

Sunday Jan. 22, 8:00 AM Lake Cunningham Park

Half day. **Leader:** Janna Pauser (408) 569-9264. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 in San Jose, go Northeast on Tully Rd. to the park entrance located on the left just past Capital Expwy. Turn left at the entrance kiosk and park in the Marina parking lot. **LO, RC**

Saturday Jan. 28, 8:00 AM Alum Rock Park

Half day. **Leader:** Jim Johnson (408) 996-3506. **Directions:** 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. **Notes:** 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. 29, 8:30 AM Coyote Reservoir

Half Day. **Leader:** Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. See details and directions from Jan. 11th. **LO, RC**

Wednesday Feb. 1, 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. 4th.

Field Trips *continued*

Saturday Feb. 4, 8:00 AM

Foster City and Coyote Point, San Mateo County Bayside

Half day plus. **Leader:** Al Eisner (days and voicemail: (650) 926-2018; evenings: (650) 364-3686). **Directions:** Meet at Sea Cloud Park in Foster City. Take Hillsdale Blvd. toward the Bay from highway 101. Turn right at Edgewater Dr. Continue several stop signs past the shopping center to Pitcairn Dr. and turn left. (There is a sign for "Sea Cloud Park" at that intersection.) Take Pitcairn until you just reach the park, turn right on Sea Cloud Dr., and proceed to the end of the parking area. We will later caravan to another Foster City location and to Coyote Point (likely admission charge). **Notes:** This trip should be good for shorebirds (including rock-birds) and waterfowl (possible Harlequin Duck and Eurasian Wigeon, no guarantees!), but we will also look for landbirds. **RC**

Sunday Feb. 5, 8:00 AM

Shoreline Lake and Environs

Half day. **Leader:** Frank Vanslager (650) 961-1505. **Directions:** 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. **Notes:** Expected species include ducks, gulls, some shorebirds, and a few riparian birds. **Difficulty Level:** A moderately long, but level, loop trip. **RC**

Wednesday Feb. 8, 1:00 PM

Coyote Valley

Half day. **Leader:** Don Starks (408) 266-2969. **NOTE:** This is an AFTERNOON field trip to catch raptors at their best! **Directions:** Take 101 S., exit right (west) onto Bailey Rd. (exit 373); turn left on Hale/Santa Teresa Blvd., in .8 mile, turn right on Laguna Ave. Meet leader .1 mile down Laguna Ave. **RC**

Saturday Feb. 11, 9:00 AM

Pescadero Marsh and Vicinity

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

Sunday Feb. 12, 8:30 AM

Merced & San Luis Wildlife Refuges

Full day. **Leader:** Rich Page (408) 377-1092. **Directions:** 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. **Notes:** 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**

Saturday Feb. 18, 8:00 AM

Oka Ponds

Half Day. **Leader:** Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. **Directions:** From Hwy 17 in Los Gatos take Lark Ave exit West. Turn right on Oka Rd., left on Mozart Ave and an immediate right on Oka Ln. Meet at the gate at the end of the lane. **RC**

Sunday Feb. 19, 8:00 AM

Alum Rock Park

Half day. **Leader:** Jim Johnson (408) 996-3506. For directions and information see the write-up for Jan 28th. **LO, RC**

Sunday Feb 26, 7:30 AM

Santa Cruz Coastal Hot Spots

Half Day (optional plus). **Leader:** Todd Newberry, Santa Cruz Bird Club (831) 426-8741. A chance to visit local birding hotspots and to chase recently reported goodies. **Directions:** 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. **Notes:** 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.

Saturday Mar. 3, 8:00 AM

Blue Oaks Ranch Preserve

Half day. **Leader:** Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. **Directions:** We will meet at the Washburn trail entrance to Joseph D. Grant County Park. If coming from Alum Rock Ave. take Hwy 130, Mt Hamilton Rd., drive approx. 6.7 miles and look for two gates on your left, and an old decrepit barn off in a field nearby. Turn left into the second of the two gates, painted yellow with yellow fence and fence posts. If coming up Quimby Rd. turn left on Mt Hamilton Rd. and drive approx. 0.8 miles to the two gates on your right. **Notes:** This trip will be limited to 12 participants in three cars, a **waiver of responsibility and assumption of risk form must be signed at the beginning of the trip** and carpooling is required. Please call leader to reserve a space. **RC**

Sunday Mar 4, 9:00 AM

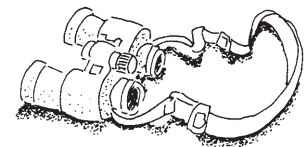
Stanford Campus

Half day. **Leader:** Dick Stovel (650) 856-6105. **Directions:** 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. **Notes:** Local breeding birds and early returning migrants should be active. **Difficulty Level:** This field trip is highly recommended for beginning birders. **RC**

Looking Ahead:

Friday, Saturday & Sunday Mar 16-18 Honey Lake, Eagle Lake & vicinity

Leader: Bob Hirt (408) 821-2732. A week-end trip to a remote but beautiful corner of northeast California to see Greater Sage Grouse on their booming grounds. We often see Sage Sparrow and Thrasher plus Pronghorn near the "lek." Other expected sightings include eagles, hawks, geese, ducks, cranes, woodpeckers and other mountain specialties such as Townsend's Solitaire, Cassin's Finch, Mountain Bluebird and Chickadee, Juniper Titmouse, Black-billed Magpie 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

2012 looks to be a fantastic year - there are so many wonderful events and activities on the calendar, being planned, and coming down the pipeline! We here at SCVAS definitely don't let the moss grow on us!

How do we do it all? With fabulous groups of volunteers like our Environmental Action Committee, Wetlands Discovery Program Docents, Chuck Wade's Nest Box Building Crew, Burrowing Owl Volunteers, Birdathon Committee, and so many more. Each year, our volunteer ranks continue to grow with dedicated and passionate people who share a love for birds, the environment and our community.

Of course, we are always eager to welcome *new* volunteers to this amazing group so we can continue to grow the important programs you, our members, have said matter to you. As you start thinking about your plans for the coming year, don't forget to think about how you just might be the perfect fit for our organizational needs in 2012. 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 at 408-252-3740 - I'd love to talk with you!

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 of a one-season commitment is required. No experience is necessary, as we will provide training materials and guidance. See the Cavity Nesters Recovery Program information on page 11 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 many South Bay children who participate each year. 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.

Conservation Corner

By Shani Kleinhaus

Environmental Advocate

The Burrowing Owls of Shoreline at Mountain View

In Fall and Winter 2009, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society embarked on an advocacy campaign on behalf of burrowing owls in the City of Mountain View. At the time, both the City and Google Inc. were planning new playing field complexes on the edges of Shoreline Park. We asked the City to ensure not only that the Burrowing Owls of Shoreline should not be harmed by these projects, but also that the City does all it can to improve habitat for the owls and help the population persist and grow. Our advocacy efforts evolved into a productive partnership. The City of Mountain View made a commitment to the welfare of the owls in a comprehensive effort that engaged City Council and staff, SCVAS staff and volunteers, owl biologists, and many many friends. We are making progress, working together to resolve complex issues in innovative ways with the hope that burrowing owls will again thrive at Shoreline and beyond.

The City of Mountain View engaged burrowing owl expert Dr. Lynne Trulio to prepare a "Burrowing Owl Preservation Plan" (coined "Preservation Plan" instead of "Management Plan" by Councilwoman Ronit Bryant). The plan has not been approved yet, but the City (Public Works, Shoreline staff) has already started to implement some of its recommendations in an effort to improve habitat prior to the 2012 nesting season. To compensate for the loss of foraging grounds to playing fields, the city created new habitat on acres of Shoreline Golf Course (where ponds were dewatered to discourage nuisance birds such as coots and Canada geese). California natives were hydro-seeded, and dozens of students from San Jose State University volunteered to augment the seedlings with hundreds of native perennials, taking part in a TogetherGreen conservation project. Plants were selected to provide food and shelter to prey species over the entire year. Brush and rock piles were also constructed to provide shelter and habitat for prey species. Artificial burrows were placed at strategic places to attract burrowing owls as well as California ground squirrels.

In 2011, three pairs of burrowing owls raised 10 chicks at Shoreline. This was the first time in Shoreline at Mountain View's recorded history that every pair of nesting Burrowing Owls has produced chicks in a single season. This success was celebrated on the City's website. Every one of Mountain View City Council members has visited the park to see the owls and the habitat creation efforts. California assemblyman Paul Fong also visited the owls. The local Mountain View Voice published stories about the burrowing owls of Shoreline and the efforts to save them, as did the Wall Street Journal. Shoreline's Lakeside Café is selling a burrowing owl cookie, and donating some of the proceeds for burrowing owl conservation.

Awareness of the plight of the burrowing owl is increasing, and we continue to do all we can to harness all this interest and good will in our efforts to engage more communities, protect and enhance habitat in Santa Clara County, and influence state policy.



Burrowing Owls at Shoreline Park
by Tom Grey

Adult Education Classes - Winter 2012

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.

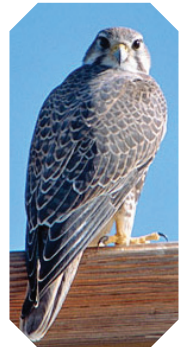
Raptors of Northern California with Bob Power

Raptors hold everyone's attention. Their grace as they dominate the airways and their power as they hunt are mesmerizing, and their beauty and majesty when they deign to allow us a prolonged look on a distant perch always makes for a lasting impression. This class will focus on the identification and natural history of Northern California's normally occurring resident and wintering raptor species,

while touching on some of our rarer visitors as well. Field trips are designed to reinforce the classroom discussions. Planned destinations include Coyote Valley and Calaveras Reservoir, Santa Ana Valley and Coyote Reservoir, and the Solano County Grasslands.

Dates: Classes: Thur's, 1/12, 1/19, & 1/26; 7-9PM. Field Trips: Sat's 1/14, 1/21, & 1/28; 7AM-5PM (includes transit time to and from the south bay). **Location:** Classes: Conference Room, McClellan Ranch, Cupertino. **Fee:** \$90 members; \$125 non-

members. **Note:** Class size is limited to 15. Carpooling during field trips is required. We will have a maximum of four vehicles for these field trips. Please do not sign up for class if you're not prepared to carpool. Carpooling expenses are shared by the participants.



Prairie Falcon
© Peter LaTourrette

Audubon Field Workshop: Southeastern Arizona with Bob Power and David Wimpfheimer May 11-20, 2012

Madera and Cave Creek Canyons, the Huachuca and Chiricahua mountains, Patagonia Roadside Rest area, and enough specialty birds to satisfy the most avid birders.

In short, one of the top birding destinations in North America. We'll immerse ourselves in the mountains, canyons, and desert lowlands as southeastern Arizona comes alive with the songs and calls of birds starting the nesting cycle. Join us to seek all of the area's specialty birds from Elegant Trogon to Red-faced Warbler, on the birding trip of a lifetime!

Dates: May 11th – May 20th, 2012. **Fees:** \$1950/person, double-occupancy. \$450 single supplement. **Deposit:** \$300 to hold space. Payment in full due March 15th, 2012. Ten participant minimum, 12 participant maximum.

David Wimpfheimer is a naturalist and a biologist with a passion for the birds and natural history of the West. From wild birds to wildflowers, David will make every visit to the natural world memorable and enjoyable. Bob Power is the Executive Director for Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society.

Bob and David have been co-leading field trips for 7 years and strike an excellent balance between exhilarating birding and general enjoyment of the natural world.



An Elegant Trogon is just one of the spectacular birds seen on past trips. Photo by Bob Power

Participant comments from the August 2010 trip to Southeastern Arizona led by David and Bob: "It was an A-mazing week." "It's been a fantastic trip! Amazing beautiful birds, spectacular scenery, superb leadership." "Such great planning" "Thank you for guiding us here. It's been spectacular." "Thanks for introducing us to this wonderful place."

SCVAS Events Calendar:

Wed. 1/4 & 2/1, 7:30-9PM

The Bay Area Bird Photographers Meeting - Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center - East Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto
Topics TBA

Tues. 1/10 & 2/14; 9:30AM

Eve Case Bird Discussion Group - meets at the home of Pat Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave., Los Gatos (408) 395-4264
Topic 1/10: Roadrunners
Topic 2/14: Robins

Mon. 1/16; 10:30AM-12:30PM

Young Audubon Whale Watching at Monterey Bay
An annual SCVAS tradition in it's 11th year, this is a great activity for children of all ages (see page 8 for details).

Mon. 2/20; Morning (exact times TBD)

Young Audubon Elephant Seal Tours at Año Nuevo State Park
Join us for a truly unforgettable experience (see page 12 for details).

For all Young Audubon Activities: Call 408-252-3740 for the most current information or to make reservations. Information is also available on our website www.scvas.org (click on "Kids' Corner").

Cavity Nesters Recovery Program
Spring is closer than you think - as are opportunities to help our local cavity nesting species. January through March, there are many ways to get involved in this important program this season. See page 11 for details on up-coming events and training dates.

Field Notes

(October-November 2011)

by Bill Bousman

Geese through Storm-Petrels

Four **Greater White-fronted Geese** at the Coyote Creek Field Station (CCFS) pond on 1 Oct (MDo et al.) and five to six birds at the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) 8 & 16 Oct (PDU, AME) were fall migrants. A **Snow Goose** found at Shoreline Lake on 30 Nov (DWe) was the first of the season. The first **Eurasian Wigeon** was one along Adobe Creek in the Palo Alto FCB on 24 Sep (PDU). Singles were on Pond A1 in Mountain View on 29 Oct (DWe), Pond A9 in Alviso on 30 Oct (MMR, RGJ, MJM), the Sunnyvale WPCP on 10 Nov (DWe), and Anderson Reservoir on 19 Nov (AMcD). Three female **Blue-winged Teal** were seen on the Guadalupe River below Trimble on 4 and 7 Oct (SCR). Five males and a female were at the South County Regional Waste Water Authority (SCRWA) treatment ponds in Gilroy on 12 Oct (WGB) and 29 Nov (RWR, FV). Two males were seen in the Lockheed Martin marshes on 10 Nov (FV) and singles were in Mallard Slough in Alviso on 21 Nov (SCT) and the Mountain View Forebay on 27 Nov (GZ). Two male and two female **Redhead** were found at the SCRWA treatment ponds on 12 Oct (WGB). A count of 581 birds on the Alviso ponds on 30 Oct (MMR, RGJ, MJM) was amazing and a high count for the county. A male **Common X Barrow's Goldeneye** reappeared at the Los Capitancillos percolation ponds on 23 Nov for its 6th winter (AV). The first male **Barrow's Goldeneye** was seen at Shoreline Lake on 23 Nov (SCT) and was there through the end of the month. An immature **Red-throated Loon** was seen on Shoreline Lake on 29 Nov (*fide* eBird) and was found the next day on Pond A1 (DWe, PDU). Less expected, a **Pacific Loon** was on the lake on 23 Nov (*fide* eBird) and remained through the end of the month (but died in early December). A **Common Loon** was seen irregularly at the Ogier Avenue ponds 18-25 Nov (RPh, v.ob.). The big surprise of the period was the first county record of a **Yellow-billed Loon** at Pond A4 in Sunnyvale. The mostly alternate loon was found on 25 Oct (PDU) and was well seen and photographed through 4 Nov when it was found dead (DWe). Almost as amazing as the Yellow-billed Loon was an **Ashy Storm-Petrel** seen over the Stanford stadium during a night game on 1 Oct (MMR, ARo). This is the second county record.

Bitterns through Hummingbirds

An **American Bittern** in the Lockheed Martin marshes on 10 Nov (MMR) was the only wintering bird found. A **Cattle Egret** seen

in Vasona CP on 19 Nov (AWa *fide* JPa) was apparently a one-day wonder. They are rarer now than a decade ago. The only **White-faced Ibis** found during the period was one in the Sunnyvale WPCP on 6 Nov (DWe). An adult **Ferruginous Hawk** apparently has returned to the Coyote Valley with the first observation on 14 Oct (RPh et al.). It has been seen more or less regularly through the end of the period (v.ob.). Single **Prairie Falcons** were seen in the Coyote Valley on 19 Nov (DWe) and at the Sierra Road summit on 22 Nov (MMR, v.ob.). Ten **Sandhill Cranes** were seen over Halls Valley on 7 Oct (OH). The **Snowy Plover** roost on the playa

(m.ob.), the maximum count being of 30 birds (WGB). In a Morgan Hill yard, a late female **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was seen on 4 Oct (SCR). The female **Costa's Hummingbird** seen there in September has continued to come to the feeders through at least 10 Nov (SCR). The last **Selasphorus hummingbird** there was a female on 4 Oct (SCR).

Woodpeckers through Warblers

Reports of **Lewis's Woodpeckers** from the San Antonio Valley included one or more birds on 22 Oct (SLo et al.) and six on 25 Nov (JTh, SCT). A **Red-naped Sapsucker** was found at Rancho Canada del Oro OSA on 9 Nov (JPa).

The **Willow Flycatcher** passage trailed off in October with four more records, the last of one banded at CCFS on 12 Oct (*fide* MMR). A **Least Flycatcher** was found along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 7 Oct (SCR), different from the bird banded there in September. A **Hammond's Flycatcher** was seen along Stevens Creek above Crittenden Lane on 24 Oct (BHi, TGr, PLD), they are found in fall in about one year in three. A **Plumbeous Vireo** was found at the Ogier Avenue ponds on 6 Oct (SCR), all of our six records are from the fall. A female/immature **Purple Martin** over the Ogier Avenue Ponds on 2 Oct (SCR) appears to be the latest record of a fall migrant for the county. Single **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** at Lake Cunningham on 16 Oct (JPa), the IBM Almaden Research Center on 25-27 Nov (JPa), Calero Creek Trail on 27 Nov (JPa), and Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 27 Nov (MMR) all may be attempting to winter. An **American Dipper** in Los Gatos Creek above Los Gatos on 2 Oct (JPa) was in an area where they are resident. Two **Red-throated Pipits** were found this fall, the 5th and 6th records for the county. The first was found with American Pipits in a large flock on 1 Nov (MMR, DFi et al.) and seen by many through 7 Nov (v.ob.). The second was with American Pipits in the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP drying ponds on 26 Nov (SCR). It was a good fall for **Phainopepla** with singles above Smiths Creek on 15-16 Oct (JTh, SCT), San Antonio Valley on 25 Nov (JTh, SCT) and at the end of Marsh Road on 29 Nov (DWe). One to two birds were seen on the Blue Oak Ranch Reserve in Halls Valley 11-22 Nov (ER, et al.). Single **Northern Waterthrushes** were found at the Charleston Road marsh on 1 Oct (SCT) and 4 Nov (GHa) and along nearby Stevens Creek on 3 Oct (RGJ) and 31 Oct (DMo). These are likely the same bird and it is once again wintering in these locations. An adult male **Black-and-White Warbler** was seen at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 6 and 7 Oct (PKe, RKe, FV, m.ob.). A **Nashville Warbler** was again found at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 7 Oct (BHi) and seen the next day as well (v.ob.). Another was along Stevens Creek above Crittenden Lane on 21 Oct (MMR). A

*Rarities included
Yellow-billed Loon,
Ashy Storm-Petrel, two
Red-throated Pipits,
and a continuing
Painted Bunting*

east of the Alviso Marina CP may have peaked on 2 Oct with a count of 118 (MMR, RGJ). This winter concentration was found farther out in the ponds on 30 Oct when 123 were tallied on Ponds A13 and A15 (MMR, RGJ, MJM). This may well be an all-time high count for Santa Clara County. A **Solitary Sandpiper** at the Ogier Avenue ponds on 5 Oct (PDU) was a late fall migrant and the first October record for the county. **Lesser Yellowlegs** continued at the CCFS waterbird pond with at least two there through 7 Oct (MDo, SCR) and one seen there on 16 Oct (MMR). Two late migrants were at the SCRWA treatment ponds in Gilroy on 11 Oct (WGB). Three birds found near the Alviso Marina CP on 30 Oct (MMR, RGJ, MJM) may be attempting to winter. Eighteen **Sanderlings** on Pond A13 in Alviso on 30 Oct (MMR, RGJ, MJM) may be a harbinger of winter when we often find good numbers of this coastal sandpiper in our former salt ponds. **Pectoral Sandpipers** showed up late, after being missed in September. Two to seven birds were seen on the CCFS waterbird pond 7-20 Oct (SCR, v.ob.) with the high count on 20 Oct (RWR, FV). Thirteen **Elegant Terns** on a closed refuge pond on 2 Oct (MMR, RGJ) appeared to be the end of their fall incursion, but one lingered over the Alviso ponds to at least 30 Oct (MMR, RGJ, MJM). In some years they remain well into November. The fall passage of **Vaux's Swifts** extended into the first week of October as in most years with birds found widely. The last date was at the Sunnyvale Baylands on 7 Oct

Field Notes *cont'd*

female/immature **MacGillivray's Warbler** was found along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 7 Oct (SCR) and is likely the same bird banded at CCFS on 28 Sep (*fide* MMR). An immature female **Blackburnian Warbler** on Fulton Street in Palo Alto was a great find on 25 Nov (PJM). It was refound on both 26 Nov (SCR, v.ob.) in nearby Rinconada Park and again on 27 Nov (MJM, m.ob.) back along Fulton. An immature **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was seen at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park 6-7 Oct (PKe, RKe, FV, m.ob.). The second **Blackpoll Warbler** of the fall was one found at the Ogier Avenue ponds on 2 Oct (SCR). **Palm Warblers** have been found at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 5 Oct (RKe, PKe), at the edge of the Lockheed Martin marshes on 8 Nov (R&BMcD), and along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 26-27 Nov (SCR, MMR). **Hermit Warblers** are rarely seen as fall migrants, so one at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 7 Oct (DWe) was unusual. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was banded at CCFS on 11 Sep (*fide* MMR), most of our fall records are of banded birds.

Sparrows through Goldfinches

This has been an amazing fall for **Clay-colored Sparrows**, with seven passage birds. Beyond the one found in September, singles were at Almaden-Quicksilver CP on 3 Oct (JPa), the Sunnyvale WPCP on 4 Oct (JPa, DFi et al.), Moffett Field 14-17 Oct (MP, MMR), Vasona CP on 5 Nov (ER), the Guadalupe River Trail north of Blossom Hill Road on 6 Nov (JPa), and at the edge of the Lockheed Martin marshes on 10 Nov (PDu, MMR). Only a single **Brewer's Sparrow** was seen, an individual along Stevens Creek above Crittenden Lane on 27 Oct (ADeM *fide* MMR). Two more **Vesper Sparrows** were found to add to September's bird. The first was

at the Ogier Avenue ponds on 2 Oct (SCR) and the other was seen at the Sierra Road summit 19-21 Nov (SCR, JLu *fide* SCR). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** at the Ogier Avenue ponds on 2 Oct (SCR) and one near Santa Teresa CP on 23 Oct (JPa) may have been late migrants or birds attempting to winter. A **Swamp Sparrow** was found on Stevens Creek above Crittenden Lane on 31 Oct (DMo) and remained there until 4 Nov (v.ob.). Two birds, an adult and an immature, were at the Ogier Avenue ponds 20-22 Nov (MMR, v.ob.). A bird settling in for the winter was seen in the Palo Alto Baylands 23-25 Nov (SCT, v.ob.). Two **White-throated Sparrows** along the Guadalupe River below Trimble on 7 Oct (SCR) were the first of the season. Singles were found at the Stanford Dish on 16 Oct (PDU), Hidden Villa on 21 Oct (GHa), along the Los Alamitos Creek Trail on 21 Oct (JPa), Stevens Creek above Crittenden Lane on 21 Oct (SCT), and at the Sunnyvale WPCP 28-29 Dec (PKe, RKe, DWe). One bird was banded at CCFS on 30 Oct (*fide* MMR) and yard birds included one in the Almaden Valley after 7 Nov (JPa) and two in a Morgan Hill yard on 10 Nov (SCR). The juvenile **Painted Bunting** seen along Stevens Creek above Crittenden Lane at the end of September was refound on 14 Oct (MMR) and remained there through 9 Nov (m.ob.). A few **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** lingered at the Sunnyvale WPCP with one seen on 5 Oct (WGB) and two on 7 Oct (MMR). Two **Pine Siskins** were at a west San Jose feeder on 6 Nov (JTh) and two birds were seen at an east San Jose feeder on 13 and 21 Nov (MFu). One along Stevens Creek above Crittenden Lane 17 Oct (MMR, RGJ) was the only other encountered. **Lawrence's Goldfinches** included two at Monte Bello OSP on 15 Oct (GHa), five to six at Henry Coe SP on 23 Oct (GaH), and two in San Antonio Valley on 25 Nov (JTh, SCT).



Red-throated Pipet
by Tom Grey

Observers: Bill Bousman (WGB), Al DeMartini (ADeM), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Peggy Don (PLD), Pete Duntun (PDu), Al Eisner (AME), Diane Finke (DFi), Mary Fullerton (MFu), Tom Grey (TGr), Garth Hall (GaH), Garth Harwood (GHa), Bob Hirt (BHi), Owen Holt (OH), Richard Jeffers (RGJ), Roland Kenner (RKe), Pat Kenny (PKe), Steve Lombardi (SLo), John Luther (JLu), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Amy McDonald (AMcD), Ron & Barbara McDow (R&BMcD), Peter Metropoulos (PJM), Dominik Mosur (DMo), Michael Parks (MP), Janna Pauser (JPa), Ryan Phillips (RPh), Bob Reiling (RWR), Alma Rogers (ARo), Mike Rogers (MMR), Edward Rooks (ER), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Jim Thomas (JTh), Steve Tracey (SCT), Frank Vanslager (FV), Ann Verdi (AV), Alan Walther (AWa), Dave Weber (DWe), and Gena Zolotar (GZ).

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

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

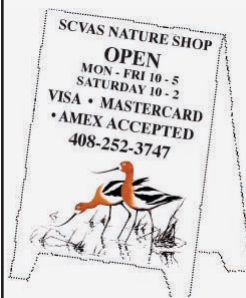


Contact the SCVAS office at 408-252-3747 or scvas@scvas.org to start your paper-free membership today!

It's not too late to get your 2012 Calendars from SCVAS!

We may be a little biased, but we think the 2012 Panoche Valley Calendar and the 2012 California Wildlife Poster Contest Winners Calendar are two of the best ones on the market! But don't just take our word for it - come to the SCVAS Nature Shop and check them out for yourself.

(Each calendar is \$16 after member discount. Proceeds from the sale of the calendars go to support SCVAS' conservation and education programs.)



Left: One of the winning posters highlighted in the 2012 Calendar. Photo © Ashok Khosla; poster images used by permission

Right: A Prairie Falcon is just one of the beautiful photographs found in the 2012 Panoche Valley Calendar. Photo © Ken Phenicie, Jr.



The 2012 SCVAS Spring Birdathon Wants YOU!

Everyone, from beginner to expert birder, can participate in the 2012 SCVAS Spring Birdathon, a major fundraising event for SCVAS Conservation efforts and youth environmental education, raising over \$75,000 in 2011. Your participation could help raise even more in 2012.

- 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. It's not like the top 3 get prizes, or the top 5, or the top ten; more than 35 participants won prizes last year. This is a fun event folks. Join on in!
- Anyone can join a team by donating or raising at least \$50.
- Anyone can sponsor a team or individual. Check www.scvas.org after February 1, 2012, 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.

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

1. Check www.scvas.org/birdathon for the Birdathon rules, information, and prize list after February 1, 2012. Check back, as the prize list will be updated often.
2. Talk to your birding friends about forming a Self-Guided Team for the 2012 SCVAS Spring Birdathon, pick a day to bird from March 24th to April 22nd, inclusive.
** Photographer's can participate in the Birdathon too! Just check the rules online - or see details about the Guided Birdathon teams on the following page.**
3. Register yourself and your team or join a Guided Team led by one of our many expert birders (see next page) by calling Susan Bell at the SCVAS Office, 408-252-3747 or online at www.scvas.org after February 1, 2012 for 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. In the "4-hour category," join one of our "Big Sit" guided teams identifying birds from one location; or join a team that birds several spots in four hours, competing to break that 100 species in 4 hours barrier.

OR

B. In the "24-hour category" 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 is humanly possible in a 24-hour period.

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 21st, 5:00 p.m., to be eligible for prizes.
8. Attend the free Birdathon Awards Dinner on Wednesday, June 6th. Participate in bird contests and games, share Birdathon stories with other participants over a relaxed, informal dinner, and maybe win another prize! 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.

YOUNG AUDUBON'S 11th ANNUAL

Winter Whale Watching

~boating adventures for children and their families~

Monday, January 16th

10:30am-12:30pm

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!



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 all families 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 (see the SCVAS website for dates and more details):

Varied Twitchers
with *Mike Rogers*

Saturday, April 21st (TBC)

Persistent Picidaes
with *Lisa Myers*

Rock Wrens
with *Bob Hirt*

Bob-O-Links
with *Bob Power*
Saturday, April 21st

DeDUCKtions
with *Matthew Dodder*

Who will challenge the great ones?

Want to lead a Big Day team? This is your year!

Contact bob@scvas.org

NEW THIS YEAR!

Rob Furrow will be leading a team that does the entire event via **Bicycle!**

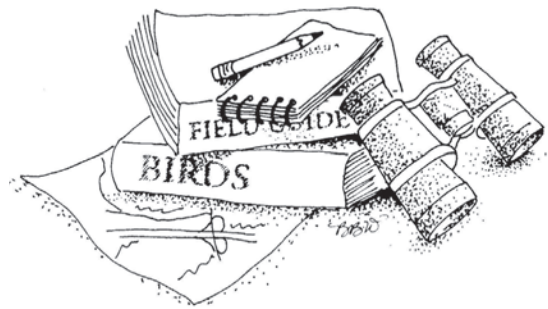
And *Bill Bousman* will lead the San Antonio Transect Team through the **northeastern corner of the county** and back again!

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 8th
Rushing Thrushes with Bob Power – Sunday, April 15th
Other teams to be announced

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



Join in the Big-sit Challenge - Saturday April 14th:

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!



Yellow-rumped Squatters with Lori Cuesta – Probable location McClellan Ranch

Data-sets with Stephanie Ellis – Probable location Shoreline Lake

Eagle Eyes with Bob Power – Probable location Coyote Lake



Your name belongs here! Form your team and join Year 2 in the Big Sit Smackdown!

Photographer's Birdathon!

Eight pioneering photographers launched the Photographer's Birdathon in 2011. Join us for year two of this photographer's challenge. Using the same time period, March 24th to April 22nd, 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!

SCVAS' 20th Annual Wildlife Education Day

October 22, 2011:

Our Best Ed Day Yet!

Thanks to the support of our generous sponsors, wonderful and engaging organizations, and some truly amazing volunteers, 2011's Wildlife Education Day provided a fun, unique, and definitely memorable experience for over 700 participants. It just keeps getting better every year!



"Critters" were definitely the highlight of the event this year! Children learned about sharks and other marine organisms with Marine Science Institute, even getting to feel the "sandpaper" skin of a young Leopard Shark (*far left*). Many participants were able to overcome their herpetophobia (fear of reptiles) with the many specimens from the Bay Area Amphibian and Reptiles Society (*middle left*). And even the worms took center stage with the Santa Clara County Home Compostors Program (*middle right*). Youth Science Institute shared the wonders of our native amphibians (*far right*), and the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley wowed participants with Olive, the Western Screech Owl (*not shown*).



Other special activities for event participants included a Tree Dedication Ceremony (*left*) with the City of Cupertino - with a special guest from Our City Forest. The city also helped families learn more about their watershed and how to protect that precious resource (*right*). And of course, no Wildlife Education Day would be complete without a host of nature arts and crafts, such as making bird feeders (*top left*) and building bird houses (*top right*).



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

Event Sponsors:



Michael Lee
Environmental Foundation



County of Santa Clara
Fish & Game Commission

Event Supporters:



Special Thanks to 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!

**Get Involved:
SCVAS' Cavity Nesters
Recovery Program
(CNRP)**

Sat. 1/21; 2-4PM

Saratoga CNRP Presentation

Joan Pisani Community Cntr,
19655 Allendale Ave, Saratoga.

Last year, Saratoga installed nestboxes in some of their open spaces and parks. Volunteers have monitored the nestboxes during the 2011 breeding season and are excited to share their results. The presentation will also talk about other birds that can be aided by nestboxes and how it all works, plus ways Saratoga residents can get involved this year.



Sat. 2/4; 10AM-12PM

Orientation and Information Meeting

McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino

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.

CNRP Nest Box Training Sessions

Come join us for hands-on experience on what it means to be a nest box monitor. We'll practice taking down hanging boxes, learn proper techniques for opening and examining the boxes, and practice identifying the different species by their nests. We may also learn how to clean out and repair nest boxes. Heavy rain or storm will postpone to the next sunny weekend.

Sat. 3/3; 11AM	12PM
McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino	Arastradero Open Space Preserve, Palo Alto. Note: Training begins at 9AM, but participants need not attend the full 3 hours if unable to do so.
Sat. 3/17; 11AM	
Ed Levin Park, San Jose	
Sat. 3/10; 9AM-	

(NOTE: New monitors need only attend one of the scheduled training sessions.)

Please RSVP for any of the above CNRP activities by contacting the SCVAS office at programs@scvas.org or (408) 252-3740.

2011 Friends of SCVAS

Gifts received between October 1st and November 30th, 2011

\$1,000-\$5,000

Anonymous, Thomas Grey and Barbara Babcock, IBM On-Demand Program, Ashok Khosla and Susan Bodenlos, Dr. S. V. Khosla, Peter and Suzanne La-Tourrette, Michael Lee Environmental Foundation, James Robenolt, Santa Clara County Fish and Game Commission

\$500-\$999

Patricia Brennan, Linda Brownrigg, Peter and Diane Hart, Franklin and Susan Orr, Stephen Robie

\$250-\$499

Applied Materials, Helen Armer, Janet Bertaina, Doug and Gail Cheeseman, Jan and Craig Edgerton, Mark and Petra Kinsman, Kathleen Lee, Phil and Joan Leighton, Ethel Meece, Ernest Renzel III, Robert and Kathryn Schauer, Bob and Carol Taggart, Robin Watenpaugh in memory of Norman Watenpaugh

\$100-\$249

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and Debbie McDevitt, Steve McHenry and Carolyn Straub, Curtis and Betty Mitchell, Julio Mulero and Renee Polizzotto, Siddharthan Ramachandramurthi, Harjeet Randhawa, Leila Saeed, Donald and Mary Savant, David Simon and Lynn Gordon, Mary Smith, Ulf Stauber, Catherine Trejo and Marti Wright, Ann Verdi, Connie West, John Wills

\$60-\$99

Bonnie Bedford-White, Calvin and Patty Brennenman, James Brooks, Robert and Susan Christiansen, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Coston, Marianne Damon, William and Gisela Evitt, Chuck Finney, Charles and Linda Hignite, Robert and Deborah Hirt, Tom Holodnik, Barbara Laidlaw, Joanne Lazar, David and Julie Stevens, Scott Terrill, Steve Wright

Up to \$59

Barbara Allen, Margaret Anderson, Julie Barney, Laurie Bechtler, Bryce and Darla Beck, Patti Beck, Robert Blumberg, Barbara Borthwick, Joan Bose, Frank and Joan Brauch, Richard and Elizabeth Brownell, Juliette Bryson, Karen Burnson, Audrey Butcher, Dotty Calabrese and Donna Clarke, Eric and Marilyn Carlson, Robert Chan, Y C Chao,

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Partners *(cont'd from page 1)*

that none of us knew about. Kim became the go-to person for the organization "Save Panoche Valley" and quickly became our closest ally in the fight to save this land that so many of us know and love that is home to rare, endangered, and threatened species. Without a partner like Kim on site we might have given up this fight long ago. The Sierra Club has also joined this partnership and that is in no small part due to Kim and the Save Panoche Valley Board of Directors and their enthusiasm for this land and willingness to fight this battle.

Ralph, Renee, and Kim are just a few examples of the behind-the-scenes partners who allow our organization to thrive and who breathe life into our organizational mission of conservation and education. We hope to introduce you to more of our partners in the future.



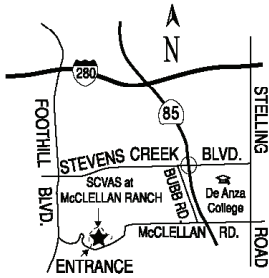
Kim Selesky helping answer questions about Panoche Valley

****Current CNRP Monitors: Don't forget to prepare for the 2012 breeding season by cleaning out your boxes by the end of February****

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
 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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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 20th* (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 \$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 or check online to get updates and information.



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

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10 AM - 5 PM

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.

RARE BIRD ALERT: (415) 681-7422

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

Avocet Editor: Toby Goldberg
Assistant Editor: Ashley Johnson
Avocet Drawings: Bonnie Bedford-White

2012 Volume 59, Number 1

Chapter Members in the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS) receive the SCVAS newsletter, *The Avocet*.

\$25 Song Sparrow (Student) \$35 American Avocet (Individual) \$60 California Quail (Family) \$100 Burrowing Owl

\$250 White-tailed Kite \$500 Peregrine Falcon \$1000 Golden Eagle Other _____

Membership \$ _____ + Donation \$ _____ = Total Enclosed \$ _____

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*Come by the office to pick up your free copy of **Birding at the Bottom of the Bay**, and our **Breeding Bird Atlas** (if joining at the Burrowing Owl level or above).*

Send this information, and make all checks payable, to: SCVAS, 22221 McClellan Rd, Cupertino, CA 95014

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