

THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

March-April 2013

Watching our Watersheds (WOW!)

Bill Bousman wrote a moving essay on the creeks of Santa Clara County several years ago entitled "A Creek Runs Through It." Following is an excerpt:

"The creeks that run through the Santa Clara Valley are nothing like the iconic Big Blackfoot River of Montana. Most of our streams are small ones that once dried up in the summer and only showed their power in winter floods. There are fish that have adapted to this water feast or famine in our Mediterranean climate, and steelhead still swim upstream on Coyote Creek and the Guadalupe River each year. Intertwined in our history, we have used our creeks for water and we have used them as trash heaps. We have dammed them, degraded them, and now, having seen what we have done, we are beginning to understand what our abuse of these marvelous creeks and streams that pass through our heartland and our history means."



Without our creeks, there are no watersheds. Without our watersheds, there are no birds. Watch our Watersheds (WOW!) is a wonderful introduction to both the current and historic creeks and watersheds of Santa Clara County. Birders know our watersheds better than most but whom among us has heard of Aubry, Todd, McElroy and Booker Creeks, all of which reside in the upper Saratoga Creek Watershed. Furthermore, how well do you understand the breadth of the San Francisquito Creek Watershed?

WOW! is an interactive map in Google Earth format that shows the present and historical watersheds and landscapes of Santa Clara Valley. The maps are based on the Oakland Museum Creek & Watershed Map series and historical ecology habitat reports from the San Francisco Estuary Institute. We encourage you to load Google Earth onto a computer, and visit www.valleywater.org/WOW.aspx to explore our watersheds with WOW! Adding your own lists of birds and photographs to the maps is easy. Over time, as many of us add observations, we can dream of creating an avian distribution map

of our county. This adds to our understanding of our local creeks and watersheds, pointing the way to our conservation future.

WOW! map of Santa Clara Valley is partially funded by a Watershed Stewardship grant from the Santa Clara Valley Water District Clean Safe Creek & Natural Flood Protection special tax of 2000 to the Committee for Green Foothills. Funding was also provided by the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program, the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society, the City of Palo Alto, and the Santa Clara Valley Creeks Coalition.

General Membership Meetings Cubberley Community Center, Rm H1

Palo Alto - Middlefield & Montrose Rds

Doors open 7:30; program 8:00

Wednesday, March 20th

"Raptor Ecology and Conservation in California" with Allen Fish

For three decades, the citizen-driven Golden Gate Raptor Observatory has monitored the biggest hawk migration in the western US each fall as it passes over the Marin Headlands. GGRO director Allen Fish will chronicle both the Observatory's citizen contributions and its avian splendors. He will tell tales of reverse-migrations, of a domesticated Redtail, of the greatest density of nesting Cooper's Hawks ever recorded, and why you should stop drinking Peet's Coffee.



A Northern Harrier being measured at GGRO

Wednesday, April 17th

"Thinking like a Naturalist: Reclaiming the Art of Natural History" with John Muir Laws

Learn how to get more out of every nature ramble. Naturalist and illustrator John Muir Laws will demonstrate simple and fun techniques you can incorporate into your own recreational nature study or to share with others. This discussion is perfect for teachers, home school parents, and anyone interested in taking their birding and nature observations to the next level.



Left: John Muir Laws and "The Laws Guide to Drawing Birds"

(Additional information and detailed directions available at www.scvas.org or by calling the SCVAS office)

The Spring Birdathon Starts March 1st - Sign up For Your Favorite Team(s) Today!

-Page 8

☞ *A Cape May Warbler is a Highlight of Winter Birding!*

— *Field Notes, Page 6*

☞ *11th Annual "Going Native Tour" with CNPS*

— *Page 8*

☞ *Christmas Bird Count Results & Summaries*

— *Beginning on Page 10*

☞ *Wingding Family Fest: A Celebration of Birds and Spring!*

— *Page 15*

The Avocet 1

March - April '13 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 Mar. 2, 8:00 AM

Windy Hill OSP

Half day. **Leader:** Kirsten Holmquist (408) 747-0988. **Directions:** 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. 3, 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. **Highlights:** Local breeding birds and early returning migrants. **Difficulty Level:** This field trip is highly recommended for beginning birders. **RC**

Wednesday Mar. 6, 12:00 PM

City of Sunnyvale Landfill

One hour. **Leaders:** Freddy Howell and Allen Royer. Contact organizer Silviana Ruiz (408) 730-7545 to attend. **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 Mar. 9, 8:00 A.M.

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 must be signed at the beginning of the trip and carpooling is required. Please call leader to reserve a space. **RC**

Local Phone Contacts Reminder:

Remember: You now have to dial a "1" to call a 408 phone number (1 + 408 + 7-digit phone number) no matter your area code of origin. This includes residents within the 408 area code itself.

Sunday Mar. 10, 7:30 AM

Sunnyvale Baylands Park

Half day. **Directions:** **Leader:** Pete Duntun (550) 279-3636. From Hwy 237 take the Lawrence Expwy/Caribbean Dr. exit toward Caribbean Dr., turn right at the first stoplight and meet next to the Recycled Water Test Garden (proceed left at the entrance). **Highlights:** Expect to bird all of this small park which is known as a great spot for rare fall warblers; we'll see what it has to offer in the off-season. **Notes:** Spring forward or be an hour late for this trip.

Wednesday Mar. 13, 8:30 AM

Mendoza Ranch and Coyote Lake County Park

Half day. **Leader:** Jim Johnson (408) 996-3506. **Directions:** 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 and continue .9 miles to Mendoza Ranch parking lot on your left. We'll bird a short time here before continuing to Lakeview Picnic area in Coyote Lake Park. **LO, RC**

Friday, Saturday & Sunday Mar 15-17 Honey Lake, Eagle Lake & vicinity

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

participants, please call leader for further details and to reserve a space.

Saturday Mar. 23, 8:00 AM

Stevens Creek County Park

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

Sunday Mar. 24, 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 road (meet at the gate if the entrance is locked). **RC**

Saturday Mar. 30, 7:30 AM

Gilroy Hot Springs Rd

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

Sunday Mar. 31, 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. **Notes:** A Park entrance fee is required. **Difficulty Level:** This is a moderately strenuous 3-4 mile walk. **LO, RC**

Wednesday Apr. 3, 12:00 PM

City of Sunnyvale Landfill

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

Field Trips *continued*

Saturday Apr. 6, 8:00 AM

Grant Ranch County Park

Half day. **Leader:** Rich Page (408) 377-1092. **Directions:** From I-680 take Alum Rock Ave. northeast, turn right on Hamilton Rd. and go approximately 9 miles to the park. Meet at Grant Lake (aka Hall's Valley Lake) parking lot, which is the first parking lot on the left side of the road (do not enter the Main Park Entrance on the right). **Highlights:** Fresh water ducks, oak woodland birds and a possible Golden Eagle. **Notes:** A Park entrance fee will be required for the last half of the trip. **Difficulty Level:** Trip involves a moderately strenuous 2-mile walk. *LO, RC*

Sunday Apr. 7, 8:00 AM

Charleston Slough

Half day. **Leader:** Roxie Handler (408) 730-1745. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 in Mt. View take San Antonio Rd. north to Terminal Way parking area. Meet at the entrance nearest San Antonio Rd. **Difficulty Level:** This trip is recommended for beginning birders but all are encouraged to attend. Bring your spotting scope and a friend.

Wednesday Apr. 10, 8:30 AM

Guadalupe Oak Grove Park

Half day. **Leader:** Janna Pauser (408) 569-9264. **Directions:** From Hwy 85 exit Almaden Expwy south. Proceed 1.3 miles to McAbee Rd. After .3 miles, turn right onto McAbee Rd., then right onto Thorntree Dr. Park entrance is .3 miles on your left. **Highlights:** We'll look for early migrants and woodland birds in this neighborhood park. **Difficulty Level:** Easy walking, beginners welcome. *LO, RC*

Saturday Apr. 13, 8:00 AM

Picchetti Ranch

Half day. **Leader:** Jim Johnson (408) 996-3506. **Directions:** From I-280 in Cupertino take Foothill Blvd. south 3.3 miles (it becomes Stevens Canyon Rd.). Turn right on Monte Bello Rd. and go about a mile, turn left past Winery entrance into the preserve parking lot. **Difficulty Level:** Trip is a moderately strenuous walk past an old orchard, a seasonal pond, and Oak woodlands.

Sunday Apr. 14, 8:00 AM

Almaden Lake Park and Alamos Creek

Half day. **Leader:** Steve Tracey (408) 966-

3860. **Directions:** Meet at the bathrooms (blue building) near the east entrance to Almaden Lake Park (note: parking is free on Winfield Blvd.). From Hwy 85 take Almaden Expwy south, turn left on Coleman Rd. and then right on Winfield Blvd. **Difficulty Level:** Expect about 3 miles of easy walking. **Highlights:** We will bird the lake and the trail upstream looking for waterfowl, raptors, and a wide variety of riparian birds. *LO, RC*

Saturday Apr. 20, 8:00 AM

Ed Levin County Park (North)

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

Sunday Apr. 21, 8:00 AM

Arastradero OSP

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

Saturday Apr. 27, 8:30 AM

Ogier Ponds

Half day. **Leader:** Rich Page (408) 377-1092. For directions see the write-up for Mar 24.

Sunday Apr. 28, 8:00 AM

Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford University

Half day. **Leader:** Sonny Mencher e-mail soccerquiz@yahoo.com. Trip is limited to twenty people; E-mail Sonny to reserve a space. Those without e-mail call (650) 366-3571. **Notes:** There is a fee of \$5 per person for the Jasper Ridge Field Trip. **Directions:** Meet in the parking lot on the right side of Sand Hill Rd. as you head West toward the Preserve (near the freeway at the intersection of Lawler Ranch Rd. and Sand Hill Rd.). At the parking lot people are expected to form their own carpool, as carpooling is now required to minimize the

number of cars on the Preserve. Caravan with a leader from the parking area between 7:50 AM and 8:00 AM only, the gate will then be open. (DONOTLEAVEEARLIER, AS PARKING OUTSIDE THE GATE IS NOT ALLOWED, SINCE IT POSES AN UNACCEPTABLE TRAFFIC HAZARD!) From I-280, the main gate is on the left side of the road about 2 miles West (away from the freeway) on Sand Hill Rd. **Difficulty Level:** Trip involves 2-3 miles of moderately strenuous walking, and goes rain or shine.

Saturday May 4, 8:30 AM

Mines Rd., Del Puerto Canyon & vicinity

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

Sunday May 5, 8:00 AM

Hidden Villa

Half day. **Leader:** Garth Harwood (650) 949-8643. **Highlights:** Bird the farm, gardens and wild land edges of this unique facility with Hidden Villa's Environmental Education Director. There will be special emphasis on learning to bird by ear. **Directions:** From I-280 in Los Altos take El Monte Rd past Foothill College, turn left at Moody Rd then after approx. 1.7 miles left into Hidden Villa. Meet at the first parking lot beside the entrance. **Notes:** A \$5 per car parking fee is required. *LO, RC*



Conservation Corner

By Shani Kleinhaus, Environmental Advocate

We are busy reviewing Developer's plans to build in the hills above Morgan Hill, at the headwaters of Coyote Creek, along the Guadalupe River and on Stevens Creek. Some of the last open space remaining near the Bay is slated for development in north San Jose and at Moffett Field.

We often use the public process afforded to us by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in an effort to ensure that decision makers can make informed decisions when they approve projects. Our most fundamental environmental law is under attack, with developers and politicians and community leaders accusing it of delaying good projects and costing time, money and jobs. It is our opinion that CEQA is a good law, and needs to be strengthened, not weakened. I recently spoke to Kathy Hamilton of the San Francisco Examiner about our use of CEQA – please see <http://www.examiner.com/article/update-ceqa-to-make-it-stronger> to read the article. If you have the time to help, please contact shani@scvas.org.

The Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan has finally been approved by all of the partner agencies (the County, VTA, Water District, Gilroy, Morgan Hill and San Jose), but its implementation is delayed by the City of San Jose. Mayor Reed issued a memo asking the partners of the plan to work together prior to implementation, with the expectation that the Plan will not put San Jose in a competitive disadvantage with its neighbors to the north, and that the new stream-lined process for permits from wildlife agencies (US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife) would be adopted by agencies responsible for safeguarding our water and water bodies (Army corps of Engineers, CA Water Quality Control board.)

Bird Safe Design - Bird collisions with windows continue to kill millions of birds every year in the US. SCVAS has been working with local companies (Facebook, Google, Apple, Intuit) and with cities on the development of bird-safe design guidelines and practices. We applaud Sunnyvale's City Council for the recent vote to prioritize a study of the issue this year.

Riparian Corridors - First, we asked the San Jose City Council to assign high priority to the development of a Riparian Corridor Ordinance in the coming year. Then, at the Annual Joint Meeting of the San Jose City Council and the Board of Directors of Santa Clara Valley Water District, we requested that the issue of development in riparian setbacks and creekside floodplains be on the Joint Meeting agenda for next year. In both case, our requests were granted.

We are making progress. More creekside projects are in the pipeline in San Jose and elsewhere, and we continue to educate policy and decision makers to the importance of creeks and their associated ecosystems. We hope 2013 will be a good year for San Jose's creeks.

Please contact shani@scvas.org if you are interested in these projects.

Volunteer Ventures

by Toby Goldberg, Programs Coordinator

National Volunteer Week, held this year on **April 21st-27th**, began in 1974 and was established to recognize, celebrate and encourage volunteerism. As a non-profit organization, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is particularly appreciative of the many hours our volunteers have donated over the years to keep our programs active and vital.

So, to all of our volunteers – THANK YOU! Please stop in the office to say hello and let us show our appreciation, or join us for one of the special activities we have planned for you:

Bird and Wildflower Hike at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve – Saturday, April 13th; 8:00-11:30AM. Jasper Ridge, near Portola Valley, encompasses remarkable geologic, topographic, and biotic diversity within its 1,189 acres, and provides a natural laboratory, educational experiences, and refuge to native plants and animals. Because of its research and refuge status, however, it is generally closed to the public. We've been able to reserve a special time for our volunteers to experience this beautiful preserve, and we hope you'll join us! Space is limited, so please call 408-252-3740 to reserve a spot.

We will also host our annual **Volunteer Appreciation Birdwalk and Dinner at McClellan Ranch Preserve on Thursday, May 2nd.** We'll take advantage of the lengthening (and warming) spring days, and the expertise of our Executive Director, to do some birding, some socializing, and some sharing of what we all love about volunteers. The birdwalk will begin at 4:30PM (possibly heading off-site, so meet at McClellan Ranch at 4:15PM), with dinner at 6:30PM. Please RSVP no later than **Monday April 29th** to (408) 252-3740 or programs@scvas.org. We look forward to seeing you!

And, if you've been thinking about getting involved, now is a great time to explore our many opportunities and see what might be a good fit for you. Here are a couple that might whet your appetite (more available on our website under "Volunteer"):

Wetlands Discovery Program Docent – Share the wonder and importance of wetland habitats with 3rd through 6th graders throughout Santa Clara County. Volunteers guide students in exploring wetland wildlife and habitat, both in the classroom and out in the field. This program - now in its 24th year - is rewarding for both volunteers and the hundreds of South Bay children who participate (over 1800 by the end of this current school year!)! No experience is necessary - 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.

Cavity Nesters Recovery Program Monitor - It's not too late to get involved in this important conservation program and help our local songbirds! Volunteers are still needed to monitor nest boxes on a weekly basis during the breeding season (March-August). New monitors will receive hands-on training from experienced staff and volunteers, and we will help find a trail that works for you. Our cavity nesting birds need you! Find out more by going to www.scvas.org/cnpr.

Of course, we have many more opportunities available - and are happy to share them! Contact Toby at programs@scvas.org.

Adult Education Classes - Early Spring 2013

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.

Spring is in the Air

This workshop will prepare us for all the activities that happen during the avian breeding season; spring migration, plumage changes, nest building, courtship behavior including song and territorial disputes. It's a fantastic time of year to be a birder. Come check it out for yourself and learn something new.

Date: Class: Thur. 3/21; 7-8:30PM. Field: Sat. 3/23; 8AM-3PM.

Location: Class: McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino. Field: Picchetti Ranch OSP & surrounding areas. Fee: \$55 members; \$80 non-members

Bird Songs and Calls of Stevens Creek with Bob Power

Start your Fridays off right by brushing up on your bird song identification skills with Bob's guidance. Class will be entirely in the field so dress warm and dry with comfortable walking shoes. We will focus on bird calls and bird songs just as our breeding season builds from peeps and tweets to a full chorus. Bring any field guide where the author describes specific bird sounds in the species accounts (Sibley, for example).

Dates: Fri.'s 3/22, 3/29, 4/05, 4/12, & 4/19; 8-10AM.

Location (varies each week): 3/22 - McClellan Ranch, Cupertino; 3/29 - Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve; 4/05 & 4/12 - Stevens Creek County Park (Daily parking fee \$6), 4/19 - TBD. **Fee:** \$10 members per class; \$15 non-members per class. 5-class discount: \$35 members; \$55 non-members. **Class size is limited to 11**



A Spotted Towhee (left) and Song Sparrow (right) are just two of the many birds whose songs will delight during the spring
Photos ©Ashok Khosla

SCVAS Events Calendar:

Wed. 3/6 & 4/3; 7:30-9PM

Bay Area Bird Photographers

Lucy Evans Nature Center, Palo Alto

Topics TBA

See www.scvas.org/babp for details.

Sun. 3/10; 9AM-11AM

Off-Site Nest Box Training

Arastradero Open Space Preserve, Palo Alto. A chance to see the CNRP monitoring in action - and ask your questions of CNRP expert and long-time volunteer, David "Tex" Houston.

Please RSVP to Tex directly at 650-303-2777 or 350co2now@gmail.com.

Wed. 3/13 & 4/10; 3-4:30PM

Nature Journaling with John Muir Laws

McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino

Free workshops for all ages! No RSVP required, but please be on time.

See www.scvas.org for more details.



Bird Sketch
© John Muir Laws

Wed. 3/13; 6:30PM

Birdathon Kick-Off Party

McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino

For anyone involved in a Birdathon Team - as a participant or a sponsor. Join us for laughs, food, friends, and tips to make your birdathon experience a great one! An entertaining slide show from last year's photography birdathon will be playing in our conference room throughout the evening. Please RSVP to 408-252-3747.

Tues. 3/12 & 4/9; 10AM

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

Topic 3/12: Mockingbird

Topic 4/9: Anna's Hummingbird

Sat. Mar 23; all day

Burrowing Owl Consortium

Intuit Headquarters, Mountain View

SCVAS is happy to announce that we will be hosting the Spring 2013 Burrowing Owl Consortium Meeting. The meeting will

be sponsored by Intuit at the company's headquarters, a short walk from the restored habitats that the city of Mountain View has created for the burrowing owls at Shoreline Park. See details - including how to register - online at www.scvas.org

Sat. April 13th; 8:00AM-11:30AM Volunteer Bird Walk at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve

A hidden gem of an open space preserve, with very restrictive access - and we've got a tour reserved just for our wonderful volunteers! Space is limited; RSVP required. See page 4 for details.

Mon. 4/22 - EARTH DAY!

Go out and celebrate the beautiful planet we live on! Go to www.scvas.org and click on "Calendar" for more information about where SCVAS is getting involved.

Thur. May 2nd;

4:30PM (Dinner at 6:30PM)

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner & Birdwalk

McClellan Ranch Preserve.

See page 4 for details

Field Notes

(December 2012-January 2013)

by Bill Bousman

Geese through Falcons

Greater White-fronted Geese were found locally in small numbers. A large flock of 70 was seen in transit over Sobrato High School in Morgan Hill on 3 Dec (SCR). An adult **Snow Goose** was seen in the New Chicago Marsh on 12 Dec (CVR) and has remained through the period. An immature **Ross's Goose** was found at Cottonwood Lake on 6 Dec (MJM) and possibly the same bird turned up at Lake Cunningham on 13 Dec (KBu, JPa) and has continued through the period. Another immature was in the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP on 5 Jan (SCR). A flock of seven adults were in the Sunnyvale Baylands Park 1-5 Jan (SW, WGB, GZ). At least 20 **Eurasian Wigeon** have been found in the period, most in the former salt ponds along the Bay. At least 11 were in the Alviso ponds on 19 Jan (MMR, MJM, LCr). Inland, a pair was at the South County Regional Wastewater Authority (SCRWA) treatment plant in Gilroy on 26 Dec (SCR), a male was there on 28 Jan (MJM, LCr), and a male was in a pond southeast of Anderson Dam on 27 Jan (GKe, AP). **Blue-winged Teal** continued in Artesian (Mallard) Slough in Alviso during the period with a peak count of two males and two females on 8 Jan (MJM). A female was found again in Thompson Creek on 16 Dec and 2 Jan (JPa). A pair was seen in the channels at the Sunnyvale WPCP on 2 Jan (AHe et al.). **Redhead** numbers were well down along the Bay from last year (and November this year). Inland birds included two at Calaveras Reservoir on 20 Dec (MMR) and a pair at Ogier Avenue ponds on 26 Jan (SP et al.). An unusual hybrid male **Bufflehead X Common Goldeneye**, first seen on Pond A1 on 21 Nov (MMR), was photographed on Shoreline Lake on 20 Dec (TGr). The male **Common X Barrow's Goldeneye** that has spent portions of the last seven winters at the Los Capitancillos percolation ponds was only seen once on 19 Dec (JPa). A female **Barrow's Goldeneye** was seen on Pond A14 in Alviso on 16 Dec (MMR). A female was also at Shoreline Lake on 1 Jan (MJM, LCr, WGB), the only one there this winter. December provided more **Red-throated Loons** than is typical. At least 10 were found on the San Jose CBC on 16 Dec (m.ob.). A juvenile was on and off at Shoreline Lake 3-17 Dec (MJM, v.ob.). Only a single Red-throated was found in January, one on Pond A2E on 20 Jan (RFu). A **Pacific Loon** was seen on Pond A14 in Alviso on 16 Dec (MMR). A juvenile showed up on a Campbell percolation pond on 19 Dec (KO *fide* PDU) and remained throughout 8 Jan (v.ob.). Another Pacific Loon was on the Lexington Reservoir on 26 Jan (PDU). This

winter our least common loon was the **Common Loon**, with a single bird seen on Shoreline Lake 19-24 Jan (PLaT, v.ob.) entangled in fishing line. The **American Bittern** wintering at the Mountain View Forebay was seen on four days during the period (v.ob.). Another bird was at the Guadalupe River and the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) ponds on 6-7 Dec (JPa, AV, KBu). One to two birds were seen along the Alviso Slough 24 Dec (WGB) and 9 Jan (PDU). One to two adult **Ferruginous Hawks** were in the Coyote Valley for most of the period (m.ob.). A juvenile was also seen on 12 Jan (MDo et al.). Diablo Range birds include one at the Sierra Road summit on 16

The winter period provided some rarities and a remarkable invasion of montane seed-eaters, but all were overshadowed by the first county record of a Cape May Warbler

Dec (RHe *fide* KHo), one near Hellyer CP on 29 Dec (RFu, DKa) and 16 Jan (MMR), an adult in the San Felipe Valley on 29 Dec (MMR), three adults in Isabel Valley on 2 Jan (MMR et al.), an adult in the San Antonio Valley the same day (WGB et al.), and one on Marsh Road on 5 Jan (RWR et al.). A **Prairie Falcon** was seen again in the Coyote Valley 21 Dec to 27 Jan (YS, MJM). Diablo Range birds continued to be seen on Marsh Road on four occasions (v.ob.) and elsewhere in the range single birds were found in Joseph Grant CP on 20 Dec (RB, BM) and Isabel Valley on 2 Jan (MMR et al.).

Sandpipers through Kinglets

There were no high counts of **Lesser Yellowlegs** this winter; the only sighting was a single bird at the SCRWA treatment ponds in Gilroy on 26 Dec (SCR). **Red Knots** are very rare in winter so 18 on a closed refuge pond on 19 Jan (MMR, MJM, LCr) was unusual. A **Red Phalarope** was found on Pond A15 on 8 Dec (PDU) and remained there until at least 5 Jan (m.ob.). A 3rd- or 4th-cycle **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was photographed perched on the Sobrato High School in Morgan Hill on 22 Dec (SCR) and was seen again the next day (KSc). Single 1st-cycle **Glaucous Gulls** were found on the Ogier Avenue ponds on 5 Jan (SCR) and Pond A16 on 14 Jan (MJM). **Black Skimmers**, not seen since August, showed up at Charleston Slough with three seen on 6 Dec (PDU, TGr). At least eight were there on 17 Dec (JMe) and a few birds remained into January (v.ob.). **Greater Roadrunners** were seen northeast of Hellyer

Avenue 29 Dec - 28 Jan (RFu, DKa, v.ob.). Another bird was found at the IBM Almaden Research Center on 29 Dec and 8 Jan (HMcD). Two birds were seen on Silver Creek Road about four kilometers southeast of the Hellyer Avenue birds on 31 Jan (RWR, FV). **Short-eared Owls** continued to be found in the Palo Alto FCB through at least 3 Jan (v.ob.). Two were seen in the Triangle Marsh in Alviso on the 16 Dec high tide (MMR) and one was found along Alviso Slough on 9 Jan (PDU). The Mt. Hamilton CBC on 2 Jan provided an excellent count of **Lewis's Woodpeckers** with 15 along the San Antonio Valley Road (RFu et al.), 14 in San Antonio Valley (WGB et al.) and 29 in Isabel Valley (MMR et al.). A male **Williamson's Sapsucker** was found in the yellow pine forest at Henry Coe SP on 3 Jan (WGB). This is the fourth or fifth Williamson's in the county and the first male. A juvenile **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** found in October and November at Ed Levin CP was not seen again until 1 Jan (DWe) and remained through the end of the period. Another juvenile Yellow-bellied was found in the Cooley Picnic Area at Stevens Creek CP on 4 Jan (RKe) and remained there through the end of the period. The rare sapsuckers were completed with a **Red-naped Sapsucker** on Amherst Street in Palo Alto on 17 Jan (DKe *fide* the RBA). The **Eastern Phoebe** found in November along the Guadalupe River at West Taylor was seen 6 Dec though at least 12 Jan (m.ob.). Surprisingly, a second Eastern Phoebe was found near the west end of the Los Capitancillos percolation ponds on 15 Dec (JPa, EBa et al.) and has remained there through the end of the period. There were scattered reports of **Tree and Violet-green Swallows**, our typical "winter" swallows. A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at Lake Cunningham on 22 Dec (SCR) was unexpected. The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** irruption declined somewhat in the flatlands during the period. This was not the case in the yellow pine forests in Henry Coe SP where many were found 3 - 25 Jan (WGB, v.ob.), including a tally of 59 on 21 Jan (MMR), which is roughly twice the number we had during the irruption in the winter of 2004-05. A few overwintering **House Wrens** are found most winters. This year there were singles at Lake Ranch Reservoir on 3 Dec (JTh), at Hicks and Alamitos Road on 11 Dec (JPa, EBa et al.) and the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 18 Jan (PDU). Flatland **Pacific Wrens** are sometimes found during winter. One was banded at the Coyote Creek Field Station on 16 Dec (JS). Wintering **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were found in Rancho San Antonio OSP on 17 Dec (MPo) and along the Calero Creek Trail on 7 Jan (JPa). Single **American Dippers** were seen along Los Gatos Creek above Main Street on 4 Dec and 3 Jan (JPa et al.) and on Stevens Creek above the reservoir on 24 Dec (JTi) and 5 Jan (JTh). These are all typical locations of winter territories. The only **Golden-**

Field Notes *cont'd*

crowned Kinglets were one or two irruptive birds in Henry Coe SP on 24 Jan (RWR, FV).

Phainopepla through Juncos

Three **Phainopepla** were found on the Mt. Hamilton CBC on 2 Jan, one along Mines Road (RFu et al.) and a male and female in Isabel Valley (MMR et al.). A male **Phainopepla** was seen at the end of Marsh Road on 3 Jan (MO'B), where one wintered last year. It remained at least through 13 Jan (m.ob.). More often missed than found, the wintering **Northern Waterthrush** in the Charleston Road Marsh was reported on 24 Dec (MSt), 1 Jan (MDo, AME, MJM, LCr), and 15 Jan (MMR). The vagrant of the season was unquestionably the male **Cape May Warbler** found along San Francisquito Creek below Hwy 101 on SCVWD lands on 21 Jan (JF, LG). This is the first record for the county of this boreal forest species that normally winters in the Caribbean. The bird showed extensive 'gum' on its facial feathers near the bill, typical of small birds that gather at flowering eucalyptus in our California winters. Presumably it had been at its favored eucalyptus for some time. It continued to be seen and photographed through the end of the period (m.ob.). Wintering **Yellow Warblers** have become more common in winter in the last few decades. Two were found near the Duck Pond and the ranger station on 16 Dec (DKe, fide SHo). At least one of these birds has been refound more or less regularly during this period. The **Palm Warbler** found along the outfall channel at the Palo Alto Baylands at the end of November was seen there again on 1 Dec (MAA) and 17 Dec (MMR, NM). Another Palm was found at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 10 Jan (PDU) and seen at least through 23 Jan (m.ob.). The only overwintering **Black-throated Gray Warbler** found this year was a male (with gummed facial feathers) in an Almaden Valley yard on 20 Dec (JPa). The count of **Hermit Warblers** was better than usual, a HY female was found in Ed Levin CP on 8 - 9 Dec (WGB, DWe) and one was seen in lower Sanborn-Skyline CP on 25 Jan (GZ). Wintering **Chipping Sparrows** included one along the Guadalupe River at West Taylor on 15 Dec (MMR) and another in Jeffrey Fontana and TJ Martin parks 20 Dec to 1 Jan (JPa, KBu). One to two **Swamp Sparrows** continued along the outflow channel at the Palo Alto Baylands through 7 Jan (v.ob.). A bird was found at the Stanford Community Farm 12 Dec to 8 Jan (RFu). A surprising three birds were seen along Alviso Slough on the San Jose CBC on 16 Dec (SCR). One at the Ogier Avenue ponds on 26 Dec (SCR) was where birds have been found in previous winters. A remarkable 27 **White-throated Sparrows** were seen during the period (m.ob.), only five were at feeders. A 1st-winter **Harris's Sparrow** was found at the Oka percolation ponds on 27

Dec (KO fide PDU) and has remained through the period to the delight of many observers. A number of '**Slate-colored' Juncos** have turned up. Most unusual were four together in one flock at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 10 Jan (PDU), probably a county high count.

Tanagers through Evening Grosbeaks

A consequence of the Evening Grosbeak invasion was the number of **Western Tanagers** found in urban areas feeding on the same Chinese pistache trees as the grosbeaks. One to three birds have been in the Sunnyvale area from 14 Dec to 5 Jan (v.ob.) with three recorded on 3 Jan (MMR). A male was seen in downtown Los Altos on 25 Dec (DD). Probably independent of the grosbeaks was an adult male in Bowers Park on 16 Dec (ASa, DTh), a male in a Campbell yard on 18 Dec (LMY), and female-type in Mountain View on 31 Dec (MZ, GZ). A 1st-winter male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** showed up at a Los Gatos feeder on 21 Dec (LSu) and has remained there through the period. **Great-tailed Grackles** have been active in multiple areas during the period. Birds have been active at Lake Cunningham during the period with a high count of 19 there on 22 Dec (SCR). Good numbers were found near the Coyote Valley on 29 Dec on the Calero-Morgan Hill CBC with at least 29 coming to a roost at the Ogier Avenue ponds (RPa, KHo, DWe). These locations are nearly 20 km apart so perhaps they represent two groups. But the 12 seen over Hwy 101 on 10 Dec (SCR) were halfway between. The San Francisquito Creek Cape May Warbler brought out the "Patagonia rest stop effect" on 24 Jan when a female **Baltimore Oriole** was spotted in the same eucalyptus (JCS). Seven Red Crossbills were at Monte Bello's Gate 5 pond on 4 Jan (GHa), and another was heard over the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 19 Jan (RFu). But the big story were the birds in the yellow pines at Henry Coe SP 3-25 Jan (v.ob.). Three were seen on 3 Jan (WGB) and at least 40 were reported on 24 Jan (RWR, FV). The Coe birds are probably Type 2 that specializes on yellow pine seeds (the one heard over the Sunnyvale Baylands Park was reported as Type 2). The remarkable **Pine Siskin** invasion has continued unabated with birds found throughout the county. Some major concentrations included 56 in the San Felipe Valley on 29 Dec (MMR), 40 on the Mule Trail near the summit of Mt. Hamilton on 2 Jan (RCP et al.), 200 along Page Mill Road in Palo Alto on 9 Jan (RFu), 60 at the Villages G&CC on 9 Jan (MFu) and 70 in yellow pines at Henry Coe SP on 21 Jan (MMR). A few wintering **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were found on the Mt. Hamilton CBC on 2 Jan, three were along Mines Road (RFu et al.) and four were in the Isabel Valley (MMR et al.). Less expected was a male at feeders at Hidden Villa in Los Altos 22-29 Jan (LR). Unlike our other montane invaders, the **Evening Grosbeak** invasion



Cape May Warbler
©Tom Grey

was mostly an urban phenomenon (m.ob.). It started with three over Mountain View on 11 Dec (JiD fide MJM) and quickly escalated to 4 to 10 birds in parts of Sunnyvale, 7 to 21 birds in downtown Los Altos, and 7 to 13 birds along Page Mill Road in Palo Alto. Outside of these areas where the grosbeaks fed on the berries of Chinese pistache, the only other birds found were nine over Monte Bello OSP on 5 Jan (FT).

Observers: Mary Ann Allan (MAA), Ellen Bate-man (EBa), Ryan Bourbour (RB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Karen Burnson (KBu), Lea Crisp (LCr), Jim Danzenbaker (JiD), David Diller (DD), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Pete Dunten (PDU), Al Eisner (AME), Jeff Fairclough (JF), Mary Fullerton (MFu), Rob Furrow (RFu), Laurie Graham (LG), Tom Grey (TGr), Garth Harwood (GHa), Ann Hepenstal (AHe), Rick Herder (RHe), Kirsten Holmquist (KHo), Susie Hons (SHo), Danny Karp (DKa), Dan Keller (DKe), Roland Kenner (RKe), Greg Kerekes (GKe), Pete La-Tourrette (PLaT), Nateri Madavan (NM), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Breanna Martinico (BM), Hugh McDevitt (HMcD), John Meyers (JMe), Lisa Myers (LMY), Matt O'Brien (MO'B), Kurt Ongman (KO), Rich Page (RPa), Janna Pauser (JPa), Steve Patt (SP), Alex Perez (AP), Michael Pollock (MP), Bob Power (RCP), Bob Reiling (RWR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Logan Rosenberg (LR), Chuq Von Rospach (CVR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Yamil Saenz (YS), Amy Sanchez (ASa), Josh Scullen (JS), Ken Schneider (KSc), John Sterling (JCS), Michael Strom (MSt), Linda Sullivan (LSu), Jim Thomas (JTh), Debbie Thompson (DTh), Jerry Ting (JTi), Francis Toldi (FT), Frank Vanslager (FV), Ann Verdi (AV), Dave Weber (DWe), Shane Wilson (SW), Genazolotar (GZ), and Maya Zolotar (MZ).

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

The 2013 SCVAS Spring Birdathon Wants YOU!

Everyone, from beginner birder to expert birder, can participate in the 2013 SCVAS Spring Birdathon, a major fundraising event for SCVAS conservation efforts and youth environmental education. **Your participation makes Audubon bird education and conservation in the south bay possible.**

- **Anyone can join a team** by self-donating or raising at least \$50
- **Anyone can be a sponsor.** Check www.scvas.org/birdathon after March 1st to pick a Birdathon team or individual to sponsor. Donate online at SCVAS.org/Birdathon, click on "Sponsor a team or member" in the left hand menu and follow the easy directions. Or, go old school and call the office at (408) 252-3747 or send a check to SCVAS, 22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino, CA. Be sure to specify the team or the team member you would like to sponsor
- **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. NOT just a few top fundraisers. Over 30 prizes were given away to Birdathon participants last year!

Here are the basics on how to join the Birdathon fun, raise money and compete for a prize:

1. **Check scvas.org/birdathon** for Birdathon rules, information, and prize list which will be updated often.
2. **Join a Guided Team** led by one of our many experienced birders (see below or P. XX) by registering online at scvas.org/birdathon or by calling Susan or Jessie at the SCVAS Office: (408) 252-3747
3. **Talk to your birding friends and organize your own team.** Pick a day from March 23rd to April 21st, inclusive, and register yourself and your team. Plan your birding day with your teammates, creating a 4-Hour or 24-hour Birdathon that fits your team. For example:
 - Spend four hours on a Saturday snacking in lounge chairs

on your patio counting species at your feeders;

- Design a route with multiple stops and habitats in four hours, competing against Bob Power, to break that "100 species in 4 hours" barrier
- 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.

Your birdathon is only limited by your imagination. Kayakers, where are you?! Several Green teams this year, too.

4. **Raise money** - At least \$50 per team member. It is 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, email, or write all your friends, family, coworkers, neighbors, and acquaintances, to ask for pledges or donations. Sound too hard? It's not. Last year, 39 participants raised \$300 or more. You can, too! We have a whole page of fundraising tips on our website.
5. **Bird with your team** on your Birdathon Day and have fun
6. **Collect your pledges** and be sure to turn in the money you have raised, pledge sheets, and results form to the SCVAS office by Tuesday, May 14th 5 p.m., to be eligible for prizes.
8. **Attend the free Birdathon Awards Dinner** on Wednesday, June 5th. Prizes are awarded to the top fundraisers and everyone can 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? Anyone can be a sponsor. Call Susan Bell at the SCVAS Office (408) 252-3747 or sponsor online at scvas.org/birdathon

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society supports the

Eleventh Annual Going Native Garden Tour

Saturday, April 20 &
Sunday, April 21, 2013
10 am-4 pm
Locations throughout
Santa Clara Valley & Peninsula

Seeking gardens & volunteers

A free, self-guided tour of bird-friendly, habitat-rich gardens landscaped with California native plants • Many private home gardens, some public • Visit as many as you like — for ideas, for photos, for inspiration.

Free admission
Registration required at
www.GoingNativeGardenTour.org



You are cordially invited to join us for a **Gala Caribbean Party** in the **Leopard Lounge** including a plated dinner, wine and live band to benefit the **WILD CAT EDUCATION and CONSERVATION FUND**



Left: Join the folks at Wild Cat Education and Conservation Fund for a fabulous Gala benefit on March 9th at the Sheraton in Palo Alto - with special appearances by their Ambassador Cats (and other "Wild Things").

For details and information about the Gala - including cost and how to register - please contact the organizers directly at 707-874-3176 or wild-cat@wildcatfund.org

"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, Biking, Boating, 4-hour, or 24-hour (any team going out longer than 4 hours and up to 24 hours) 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 complete descriptions of these teams at www.scvas.org/birdathon. Except where noted, teams are for adults over 17. *The registration deadline is one week before the trip date.* Each leader will contact you with complete details prior to your Birdathon adventure

The Fledglings with

Pati Rouzer - *Sat, April 6th*

This fun team welcomes young birders ages 6 -16. Birders must have basic binocular and identification skills and the interest to bird for six hours (and a willing parent to accompany them). We will begin at 7:30 AM, break for a 30-minute lunch and continue to approximately 2 PM to beat our last year's record of 65 species. Pati has served on the Board of Directors for SFBBO, is an avid birder and international trip leader.

Persistent Picidaes with Lisa Myers (Let's Go Birding) - *Sun, April 14th*

An all-day birding adventure The Picidae will start at 7:30 AM and count until dusk around Santa Clara County. This is the perfect

24-hour Birdathon Teams

team regardless of your birding skill level - everyone is welcome. If you need a pair of binoculars, let Lisa know and they will be provided. Team limited to 20. Full day. 100+ species.

Bob-O-Links with Bob Power - *Sun, April 14th*

Join SCVAS's executive director whose leadership style will complement all birding levels. "We may be starting at midnight this year." Wee hours of the AM to dusk. 140+ species.

DeDucktions with Matthew Dodder - *Sat, April 20th*

Matthew is a superb birder, very popular Birdathon team leader and

accomplished birding instructor at Palo Alto Adult School. All levels of birders are encouraged to join this team and experience the thrill of a professionally led team that "gets the birds." Join this fast paced pre-dawn-to-dusk tour of the county. 140+ species.

SAVvy Migrants with Bill Bousman - *Sat, April 20th*

An all day birding adventure with Bill Bousman, author of the Breeding Bird Atlas of Santa Clara County, CA. An extraordinary opportunity to learn about the birds and habitats of the Diablo Range. Trip starts in San Antonio Valley and ends along the bay. Carpooling will be essential. Group size

limited to 8. Two vehicles max. Dawn to dusk. 90+ species.

Varied Twitchers with Mike Rogers - *Sat, April 20th*

This is a high intensity day with one of the Bay Area's premier birders. Start your big day early with owling and continue until sunset. This team holds the record for winning all the 24-hour Most Species awards since 2003. 160+ species.

Rock Wrens with Bob Hirt - *Sun, April 21st*

Join this long-time birder and SCVAS Board Member for an active day in the field. Start early for owls in the western foothills, zigzag to the Bay for shorebirds, and then climb up the eastern slope, ending after dusk. 140+ species.

Lean Green Birding Machines with Rob Furrow - *Sat, April 6th*

Go green and go mean. This whirlwind bayside biking adventure starts at Sunnyvale Baylands, heads to Alviso and back and finishes at Charleston Slough (time permitting). The adventure will be roughly 20 miles at a moderate pace. High-performance road bikes are not recommended for these trails. 80+ species.

Surf Scoters with Susan Bell - *Sun, April 7th*

Count birds in the marshes of Alviso Slough from a unique vantage

4-hour Birdathon Teams

point - aboard the historic 44-foot tugboat Sea Dive. Join First Mate Susan Bell and Captain Charles Bell on a slough cruise then finish counting on shore to total four hours. Includes refreshments. Meet in Alviso. Team limited to eight signups. 8 AM and count 8:30 to 12:30. 30+ species.

Hi-Speed Rails with Bob Power - *Sat, April 13th*

Join Bob as the Hi-Speed Rails go stealthy and green in this walking tour of North Bayshore, Stevens Creek, Shoreline Lake and

Charleston Slough. Expect a good morning's exercise while birding 8 AM to noon. 80+ species.

Cupertino Creek Cruisers with Debi Jamison - *Sun, April 14th (rain date April 21)*.

Take a leisurely one mile stroll along Stevens Creek from McClellan Road to Stevens Creek Blvd., as we conduct the Creek Cruiser's 10th annual spring bird survey. After the first 4 hours you are invited to continue for about three more hours to complete the survey by birding the Stockmeir

property whose creek restoration has begun. We will complete the loop back to the start through McClellan Ranch West, the section of the nature preserve on the west side of the creek. You can participate in the Birdathon part only or the entire survey. We expect to find about 50 species.

Rushing Thrushes with Bob Power - *Sat, April 20th*

Bob's east-side blitz will start east of Milpitas and end in Alviso, exploring the unique habitats of the Diablo Foothills and the Bay. Join this fast-paced chase 8 AM to noon. 80+ species.

Yellow-rumped Squatters with Lori Cuesta - *Sun, April 7th*

Join Lori's team at our headquarters in McClellan Ranch Park in Cupertino (location TBC) from 8am-12pm to see how many species you can identify from a single spot using scopes. 40+ species.

Big-sit Challenge Birdathon Teams

Eagle Eyes with Bob Power - *Sun, April 7th*

Big-sit Challenge team will be counting from the north face of Coyote Lake at the dam. The Big-sit Birdathon is perfect for

those who don't want to spend a lot of time chasing around town. 40+ species.

DataSets with Stephanie Ellis (SFBBO) - *Sun, April 7th*

Continuing a great tradition of SFBBO-SCVAS support and collaboration, the DataSets will migrate over to Charleston Slough in Mountain View for a morning of shorebirds (and maybe even some owl-y surprises) perfectly situated between multiple habitats. 40+ species.

2012 SANTA CLARA COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Species	SJ 12/16/12	PA 12/17/12	MtH 1/02/13	Cal-MH 12/29/12	Species	SJ 12/16/12	PA 12/17/12	MtH 1/02/13	Cal-MH 12/29/12
Greater White-fronted Goose	4	1	-	-	Ferruginous Hawk	2	-	5	6
Snow Goose	5	-	-	-	Golden Eagle	23	5	6	17
Ross's Goose	1	-	-	-	Clapper Rail	-	7	-	-
Cackling Goose	8	8	-	-	Virginia Rail	62	8	-	7
Canada Goose	1990	927	1	430	Sora	78	5	1	8
Wood Duck	2	2	5	155	Common Gallinule	9	2	-	5
Gadwall	550	194	10	159	American Coot	10581	4273	213	828
Eurasian Wigeon	7	2	-	-	Black-bellied Plover	451	477	-	-
Eurasian x American Wigeon	1	-	-	-	Snowy Plover	36	-	-	-
American Wigeon	4471	856	93	19	Semipalmated Plover	1	135	-	-
Mallard	1715	1068	71	642	Killdeer	112	69	76	123
Blue-winged Teal	4	-	-	-	Black-necked Stilt	729	264	-	-
Cinnamon Teal	66	45	-	-	American Avocet	2511	1151	-	-
Northern Shoveler	7579	5313	-	26	Spotted Sandpiper	8	2	-	1
Northern Pintail	186	206	-	5	Greater Yellowlegs	51	14	2	2
Green-winged Teal	2173	876	-	89	Willet	48	1821	-	-
Canvasback	2211	2984	1	6	Whimbrel	-	4	-	-
Redhead	302	5	-	-	Long-billed Curlew	53	140	-	3
Ring-necked Duck	193	135	22	76	Marbled Godwit	309	1433	-	-
Greater Scaup	961	227	-	22	Ruddy Turnstone	-	1	-	-
Lesser Scaup	5973	334	-	34	Sanderling	27	1	-	-
<i>aythya</i> , sp	716	18299	-	-	Western Sandpiper	178	1937	-	-
Surf Scoter	19	119	-	-	Least Sandpiper	1747	516	-	1
Bufflehead	858	248	88	157	peep sp	25	8070	-	-
Common Goldeneye	57	98	-	37	Dunlin	1526	699	-	-
Barrow's Goldeneye	1	-	-	-	Short-billed Dowitcher	2	3	-	-
Hooded Merganser	11	35	2	11	Long-billed Dowitcher	245	80	-	10
Common Merganser	55	8	10	50	dowitcher sp	1118	1022	-	-
Red-breasted Merganser	92	1	-	-	Wilson's Snipe	50	4	2	13
Ruddy Duck	10084	12187	97	105	Red Phalarope	1	-	-	-
duck sp	-	4	-	-	Bonaparte's Gull	115	59	-	-
California Quail	113	106	272	508	Mew Gull	216	2	-	4
Ring-necked Pheasant	3	2	-	1	Ring-billed Gull	692	344	-	113
Wild Turkey	269	78	44	411	Western Gull	59	28	-	3
Red-throated Loon	10	1	-	-	California Gull	1365	1344	-	3446
Pacific Loon	1	-	-	-	Herring Gull	4240	8	-	1035
Pied-billed Grebe	234	107	10	68	Thayer's Gull	379	12	-	23
Horned Grebe	43	7	-	2	Glaucous-winged Gull	217	24	-	22
Eared Grebe	3205	178	-	18	gull sp	930	717	-	1381
Western Grebe	402	110	-	20	Forster's Tern	274	6	-	-
Clark's Grebe	166	15	-	7	Black Skimmer	-	6	-	-
<i>aechmophorus</i> , sp	42	31	-	-	Rock Pigeon	1421	508	23	1098
Double-crested Cormorant	271	294	1	167	Band-tailed Pigeon	55	85	135	460
American White Pelican	31	95	-	6	Eurasian Collared-Dove	41	16	21	177
Brown Pelican	48	16	-	1	Mourning Dove	363	299	8	531
American Bittern	-	-	-	-	Greater Roadrunner	-	-	-	2
Great Blue Heron	46	19	10	32	Barn Owl	3	3	-	4
Great Egret	67	47	-	39	Western Screech-Owl	14	1	4	4
Snowy Egret	83	94	-	25	Great Horned Owl	15	4	27	8
Green Heron	6	3	-	4	Northern Pygmy-Owl	2	-	6	-
Black-crowned Night-Heron	78	185	-	9	Burrowing Owl	14	1	-	2
Turkey Vulture	238	57	7	286	Short-eared Owl	3	-	-	-
Osprey	1	-	-	2	White-throated Swift	80	39	-	20
White-tailed Kite	31	31	-	40	Anna's Hummingbird	372	322	14	427
Bald Eagle	1	-	4	3	Belted Kingfisher	11	4	5	24
Northern Harrier	56	17	-	36	Lewis's Woodpecker	-	-	72	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8	4	3	7	Acorn Woodpecker	137	263	349	264
Cooper's Hawk	31	13	1	17	Red-breasted Sapsucker	19	6	16	9
<i>accipiter</i> , sp	1	5	-	2	hybrid Sapsucker	-	1	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	31	53	4	70	Nuttall's Woodpecker	79	93	23	128
Red-tailed Hawk	233	110	70	228	Downy Woodpecker	14	10	1	12

Species	SJ 12/16/12	PA 12/17/12	MtH 1/02/13	Cal-MH 12/29/12
Hairy Woodpecker	5	19	6	8
Northern (Red-Shafted) Flicker	137	112	86	264
Northern (RedxYellow) Flicker	2	-	-	2
Pileated Woodpecker	-	1	-	-
woodpecker sp	1	-	-	-
American Kestrel	81	24	7	85
Merlin	8	7	2	13
Peregrine Falcon	16	7	-	3
Prairie Falcon	3	-	1	2
<i>falco</i> , sp	1	1	-	1
Black Phoebe	365	217	28	197
Eastern Phoebe	1	-	-	-
Say's Phoebe	31	14	1	42
Loggerhead Shrike	12	2	1	20
Hutton's Vireo	8	41	1	16
Steller's Jay	175	243	21	157
Western Scrub-Jay	406	495	339	751
Yellow-billed Magpie	125	-	128	184
American Crow	1116	1071	100	1220
Common Raven	134	97	62	114
Horned Lark	76	-	-	135
Tree Swallow	9	-	-	9
Violet-green Swallow	29	8	-	-
Barn Swallow	10	-	-	-
swallow sp	6	-	-	-
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	195	849	6	308
Oak Titmouse	105	305	296	355
Bushtit	864	1153	82	910
Red-breasted Nuthatch	22	1	2	6
White-breasted Nuthatch	42	63	104	134
Pygmy Nuthatch	-	1	-	-
Brown Creeper	3	39	5	5
Rock Wren	7	-	-	13
House Wren	2	-	-	-
Pacific (Winter) Wren	1	-	-	-
Marsh Wren	152	22	1	4
Bewick's Wren	90	151	25	94
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	1	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4	-	3	-
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	295	338	40	192
Wrentit	12	42	66	46
Western Bluebird	234	130	128	220
Towsend's Solitaire	-	-	1	-
Hermit Thrush	80	98	38	86
American Robin	746	3255	173	2736
Varied Thrush	13	33	7	74
Northern Mockingbird	84	43	-	73
California Thrasher	6	39	33	40
European Starling	2205	1248	567	2250
American Pipit	101	30	-	61
Cedar Waxwing	810	2237	-	689
Phainopepla	-	-	3	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	7	8	-	1
Common Yellowthroat	74	21	-	9
Yellow Warbler	-	1	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	1	-	-
Yellow-rumped Warbler (form ?)	880	206	4	708
(Audubon's)	413	685	-	326
(Myrtle)	8	14	-	14
Townsend's Warbler	23	128	-	26
Spotted Towhee	56	145	72	115

Species	SJ 12/16/12	PA 12/17/12	MtH 1/02/13	Cal-MH 12/29/12
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	6	-	-	20
California Towhee	300	418	165	388
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	CW
Lark Sparrow	155	CW	87	45
Sage Sparrow	-	-	7	-
Savannah Sparrow	218	17	8	137
Fox Sparrow	17	34	82	27
Fox Sparrow (Sooty)	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow (Slate Colored)	-	-	22	-
Song Sparrow	422	112	6	122
Lincoln's Sparrow	86	27	-	24
Swamp Sparrow	3	1	-	CW
White-throated Sparrow	4	8	-	3
White-crowned Sparrow	1403	1006	290	1599
Golden-crowned Sparrow	514	799	308	1186
sparrow sp	-	183	-	15
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	633	876	802	958
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	1	-	-	2
Western Tanager	1	CW	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	852	183	114	1540
Tricolored Blackbird	76	-	67	716
Western Meadowlark	387	504	66	487
Brewer's Blackbird	758	175	283	1697
Great-tailed Grackle	7	-	-	29
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	-	-	13
blackbird sp	20	11	-	1207
Purple Finch	1	14	60	18
House Finch	1823	529	40	1563
Pine Siskin	136	106	69	103
Lesser Goldfinch	414	379	69	398
Lawrence's Goldfinch	-	-	7	-
American Goldfinch	133	35	1	220
goldfinch sp	-	1	-	-
Evening Grosbeak	-	4	-	-
House Sparrow	83	53	20	60
Total Species	179	161	98	143
Total	95,902	91,329	6,905	39,554

Key: sp = species undetermined
 CW = Count Week

SJ = San Jose: compiled by Kirsten Holmquist
 PA = Palo Alto: compiled by Al Eisner
 MtH = Mount Hamilton: compiled by Bob Hirt
 Cal-MH = Calero-Morgan Hill: compiled by Ann Verdi

Data entry and chart format by Bonnie Bedford-White; listing order has been adjusted to reflect the most recent ABA checklist, version 7.4 - 12/12

2012 Christmas Bird Count Summaries

Palo Alto CBC

by Al Eisner, Compiler

The Palo Alto CBC on December 17 was beset by intermittent rain in the morning, while afternoon conditions (except at the highest elevations) were largely dry. Temperatures were mostly in the 50's. A below-average species total of 161 was due at least in part to the weather; in particular, the small owls were almost missing. Also, a number of parties which counted for only 3 hours or so put in their time during the poorer AM conditions. Five "regular" species were missed: Blue-winged Teal, Barrow's Goldeneye, Pacific Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Brown-headed Cowbird.

This has been an irruption year for Evening Grosbeak, a species found on the Palo Alto CBC only once in the past 25 years (in 2010). The previously-reported Sunnyvale birds were within the count circle; they were not located despite considerable effort by one of our count parties, but fortunately they were seen and described by a non-participant (John Facchini). Even rarer (only twice previously on this CBC) was a Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher at Rancho San Antonio, also found by a non-participant (Michael Pollack)! The next rarest species for the count was the Palm Warbler along the airport channel at the Palo Alto Baylands, refound for the count by Mike Rogers. (Palm has shown up on 7 previous occasions, but only once in the past 15 years.) Mike also saw the Yellow Warbler at the Baylands, found the day before by Dan Keller. On the other hand, our virtually-regular Northern Waterthrush failed to cooperate for the count. Bill Bousman saw the continuing Red-throated Loon at Shoreline Lake. Less-than-regular species were rounded out by 1 Ruddy Turnstone, 8 Violet-green Swallows (Felt Lake, spotted first by Pete Dunten), 1 Swamp Sparrow (Stanford, Rob Furrow), and lots of Pine Siskins (many locations). Two additional species found during count week were Lark Sparrow and Western Tanager.

Among regular but still notable waterfowl, only 1 Greater White-fronted Goose (at Bedwell-Bayfront Park) and 2 Eurasian Wigeons were found. The 2 Loggerhead Shrikes matches a previous low; this species seems to be in a long-term decline here.

The Avocet 12



Lawrence's Goldfinch
©Tom Grey

On the other hand, there was an impressive total of 8 White-throated Sparrows, and the 16 Eurasian Collared-Doves included the first one we've had away from East Palo Alto and vicinity (it was in Sunnyvale). The total of 5 Golden Eagles was unusually high. In the "who needs them?" category, American Crow numbers continued their steady climb, surpassing 1000 for the first time, while Canada Goose fell back a bit from the previous two years.

Thanks to Jack Cole for organizing the count, and to all the regional coordinators and the 98 intrepid participants for a fine day, despite the weather!

San Jose CBC

by Kirsten Holmquist,
Coordinator and Compiler

The San Jose count went forward this year under cool but clear conditions. We had a record breaking year with 179 species recorded for the day. Many thanks to all the volunteers who contributed their time and energy to make this happen.

This year all four realistically possible geese made an appearance: Greater White-Fronted Goose (4, Pond A-22, Bill Walker, Mary Wisnewski, Rob Furrow), Snow Goose (1, Near Jubilee Church, Bill Bousman, Jim Thomas; 4, Pond A-22, Bill Walker et al), Ross' Goose (1, Lake Cunningham, Jim & Sue Liskovec), and Cackling Goose (1, New Chicago Marsh, Steven Tracey; 7, Lake Cunningham, Jim & Sue Liskovec). Several unusual ducks were also sited: Eurasian Wigeon (7, Pond A-14, Mike Rogers), Barrow's Goldeneye (1, Pond A-14, Mike Rogers, Dave Weber),

and Blue-Winged Teal (1, Mallard Slough, Steve Tracey, Monica Spiller; 2, Pond A-22, Bill Walker et al; 1, Thompson Creek, Janna Pauser). Exceptional raptors included Ferruginous Hawk (1, Sierra Road top, Rick Herder, Teri Rogoway, Kirsty Mackay; 1, West of Pond A-22, Bill Walker et al) and Osprey (1, Lake Cunningham, Ron & Barbara McDow).

We had a single exceptional shorebird but it was a doozy. Mike Rogers and Dave Weber re-found the Red Phalarope in the outer refuge ponds at the junction of Ponds A-13, A-14, and A-15. A Pacific Loon was also found by Mike Rogers on Pond A-14. More surprising were the large numbers of Red-throated Loons hanging around (2, Pond A-8 South, David McIntyre, Dale Stahlecker; 5, Ponds A-10, A-11, A-12, Mike Rogers; 2, Pond A-8 North, Steve Rottenborn; 1, Pond A-5, Steve Miller, Julio Mulero).

An Eastern Phoebe was found along the Guadalupe River by Greg Kerekes and a couple of high-powered poachers: Mike Mammoser and Richard Jeffers. As with elsewhere in the Bay Area, a number of White-throated Sparrows were recorded: 1, Guadalupe River, Greg Kerekes, Mike Mammoser, Richard Jeffers; 1, hillside in Alum Rock area, Phyllis Swanson; 1, Overfelt Gardens, Ann Verdi, Richard Page. Steve Rottenborn managed to find 3 Swamp Sparrows along Alviso Slough. I had a Dark-eyed (Slate-Colored) Junco in the usual location of Bayside Technology Park. A check of Bowers Park by Amy Sanchez and Debbie Thompson yielded a Western Tanager. Great-tailed Grackles made an appearance in two locations: 4, Lake Cunningham, Jim & Sue Liskovec; 3,



Red Phalarope
©Peter LaTourrette

Count Summaries *cont'd*

Upper Penitencia Creek Park, Ann Verdi, Rich Page. Lastly, all three swallow species (Tree, Violet-Green, and Barn) were noted by many parties throughout the count circle.

One final note: This marks my 10th year as compiler. I had only about one year before the Cargill ponds transferred ownership to the National Wildlife Refuge, Santa Clara Valley Water Department, and the City of San Jose. Shortly after that, restoration efforts commenced on the refuge. Other parts of the count have seen losses due to urbanization, especially in the area around Lake Cunningham. The net effect is that the average species count for my 10 years is up about 5 species over the prior 10 years. This is despite losing at least two species (Canyon Wren, American Dipper) elsewhere in the circle. Prior to my tenure, we had only one year where the species count exceeded 170. It is now the norm rather than the exception. Six of the last seven years have seen a species count of 170 or greater. Also, the total individual count average is up at least 15K over the prior 10 years.

Mt. Hamilton CBC

by *Bob Hirt*,

Coordinator and Compiler

Mount Hamilton is spectacular when the weather is clear and cold. We got both this year on our January 2, 2013 count day (as low as 17F degrees). Views of the Sierra on one side and the Pacific on the other. We had black ice in spots on the East slope so very careful driving was needed. The snow from the past week had not melted very much but was not an impediment. All went well even though Kirsten Holmquist narrowly avoided been locked behind a gate on a ranch and I broke my plastic front bumper foolishly trying to negotiate a very long and deep puddle. This is SUV or Truck country for sure.

We found 98 species (average for us) and 6,905 individuals (low). Ducks and water birds were down since many of the ponds on the ranches were frozen. Quail were much lower than normal. Our National High last year of 394 Lawrence's Goldfinches was a "one year wonderment" since we only found 7 (!) this year. Another National High (9) last year (although not a full species yet) was Fox Sparrow of



Greater Roadrunner
©Tom Grey

the Slate-colored group and this year we identified 22 of that group out of the 104 Fox Sparrows recorded. Lewis's Woodpecker (72) were about normal.

Thanks to our leaders and the participants for a great count again. Special thank you to Elinor Gates for again hosting the Compilation Dinner at her home atop the mountain.

Calero-Morgan Hill CBC

Ann Verdi

Coordinator and Compiler

We ended up with 143 species plus two Count Week birds which is a little lower than our average of 145. Weather may have played a part in the lower number of species this year as a few days before the count a strong storm moved through the area filling inland reservoirs, lakes and ponds with debris and brown silt filled water and temporarily obliterating shoreline mudflats for roosting waterfowl and foraging shorebirds. Also, the day began dank, foggy and drizzly, not clearing up until late afternoon – the Loma Prieta team even had snow. But the day's weather did not deter the 80+ hardy birders out in the field, and we came up with some interesting results.

Most significant was the increase of southern species with 177 Eurasian Collared-Doves and 29 Great-tailed Grackles tallied for this year's count. While these species are now showing up in other places in our local counts, they first began showing up in small numbers in this mid-south Santa Clara County count several years ago, but are now showing signs of dramatic increase.

Here are some other features from our count. This year we had the highest number of Wood Ducks (165) and the low-

est number of Common Mergansers (50) recorded for this count. The low number of Common Mergansers can most likely be attributed to the muddy silted conditions of the reservoirs while Wood Ducks were found mainly along wooded creeks rather than in reservoirs this year. Also because of the conditions of the reservoirs and lakes, our shorebird count was down considerably this year; for example, no Black-necked Stilts (a rarely missed species) and only one Least Sandpiper recorded.

Most land bird numbers held steady this year. This year's winter incursion of Red-breasted Nuthatches (6) and Pine Siskins (107) was reflected in their numbers, and 74 Varied Thrush was a good number coming from both the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range. 710 Tricolored Blackbirds was a high count for this CBC with most seen in Coyote Valley.

Other special birds included the following: one immature Brown Pelican at Parkway Lakes – two Burrowing Owls in Coyote Valley – three Bald Eagles (2 adults at Anderson Reservoir and one immature over Coyote Valley) – two Greater Roadrunners (one off Hellyer road, a known location for this species, and a surprising find with another one seen on IBM property in the Santa Teresa Hills) – Tree Swallows sighted at three locations, Cottonwood Lake, Ogier Ponds, and Calero Reservoir – White-throated Sparrows in the Almaden area and the Diablo foothills. Count Week birds included a Chipping Sparrow at Jeffrey Fontana Park in suburban Almaden, and a Swamp Sparrow at Ogier Ponds.

As always, my thanks to all who came out for the 2012 count. The next Calero-Morgan Hill CBC will be on Saturday, Dec 28, 2013, so until then good birding in 2013.

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Save the Dates:



Keep your eye on the calendar for these fun Young Audubon activities for children and families coming up soon! Space may be limited - so don't wait to sign up!

* * * * *

Wingding Family Fest:

A celebration of Birds and Spring!

Saturday, May 4th
10:00am-3:00pm

Join SCVAS and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District for a FREE event for all ages at Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve. No advance registration required, though some activities have limited space.

Highlights will include bird walks, geocache walks, arts-and-crafts, and some live bird guests!

Summer Nature Days

Outdoor Day Camps for Grades 2-6

July 22nd-July 26th
9:00am-3:00pm

Come explore with us at McClellan Ranch Preserve, Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve, Shoreline Lake, and Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

(in partnership with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and Shoreline at Mountain View)

Don't wait to register - Summer will be here sooner than you think!

* * * * *

Full details and registration information available online (go to www.scvas.org - click on "Kids' Corner")

Outside Events

(When we can, we love to share interesting activities and events with our members, even when we're not the ones hosting them. Below are some we think you'll enjoy!):

April 5th-7th
Olympic BirdFest 2013
(San Juan Island Cruise April 7-9)
Sequim, WA

Visit the rain shadow of the Olympic Peninsula to discover the birds of the coastal Pacific Northwest. Guided field trips, bird cruises, a silent auction, and a gala banquet. Go to www.olympicbirdfest.org for more details and to register.

April 18th-24th
18th Annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival
Arcata, CA

Experience extraordinary birding opportunities and beautiful scenery. Register online at www.godwitdays.com.

Sun & Sat, April 20 & 21
10AM-4PM

Going Native Garden Tour
Various locations in Santa Clara County

SCVAS is always pleased to support this fun event. See flyer on page 8

April 26th-28th
4th Annual Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival.

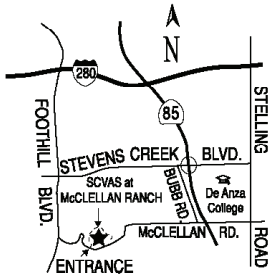
Go online to the festival website - www.pointreyesbirdingfestival.org - for details and information on how to register.



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Board of Directors Elections

The Nominating Committee of the SCVAS Board of Directors is calling for member petitions for new members of the Board of Directors pursuant to Section 6.02 of the Bylaws. Petitions must be delivered to the SCVAS office by March 31, 2013.

Voice vote elections will be held during our Annual Meeting and potluck on June 19, 2013 at our office in McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino.

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday	10 AM - 5 PM
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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

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2013 Volume 60, Number 2

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<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Song Sparrow (Student)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35 American Avocet (Individual)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 California Quail (Family)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Burrowing Owl
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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.