

# THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

March-April 2014

## Sunnyvale Victory For Birds

by *Stephanie Ellis*  
SCVAS Executive Director

On January 27th, Sunnyvale's Mayor Griffith and City Council voted in favor of adopting guidelines for "Bird-Safe Building Design" for the City.

According to American Bird Conservancy's manual on "Bird-Friendly Building Design", hundreds of millions of birds are killed annually by colliding with glass windows in the United States. Collisions are associated primarily with highly reflective, or transparent glass, in close proximity to landscaping and/or open space. Bird collisions with glass windows frequently result in death, and have been identified as a leading cause of bird mortality in the United States. The adopted guidelines will be used in project evaluation, and take into consideration the known risk factors; including building location, glass surfaces, and landscaping. Santa Clara Valley Audubon and the Sierra Club's Loma Prieta Chapter have been advocating with the City of Sunnyvale, and we are thrilled that the council took action. It was clear that the decision - as council expressed - "comes from the heart".

Over the next two years, the City of Sunnyvale will evaluate the effectiveness of the adopted guidelines. After two years, council will evaluate codifying the guidelines into an ordinance.

Sunnyvale is now the leader in bird-safe building design in the South Bay. We hope that their example will set a precedent for neighboring cities.

As the new Director for SCVAS, I am delighted to be a part of such a key decision for our Bay Area birds. Bird window strikes are a major concern for birds everywhere, especially as increasing development threatens their natural habitats. SCVAS would like to thank our Environmental Advocate, Shani Kleinhans, SCVAS volunteers, and the Sierra Club's Loma Prieta Chapter, for their dedication to this cause. We would also like

to thank Sunnyvale's Mayor Griffith, City Council, and the City of Sunnyvale for their strong consideration of this issue, and subsequent adoption of these critical bird-safe building guidelines. Yay for birds!

**The Spring  
Birdathon Starts  
March 29th!  
Sign up For Your  
Favorite Team(s) Today!**  
**-Page 8**



### General Membership Meetings Cubberley Community Center, Rm H1

Palo Alto - Middlefield & Montrose Rds  
Doors open 7:30; program 8:00



Wednesday, March 19th

#### "The Best of Baylands - Our Backyard Birds" with Ashok Khosla

Ashok Khosla, SCVAS President and avid Bird Photographer, will discuss the history and ecology of Baylands, its evolution from a future hotel site to a nature park, and from 40 acres in the 1940's to over 2,100 acres in the 21st century. Saving an estuary is a major conservation success story. However, history does indeed repeat itself, and Ashok will discuss a few of the challenges our backyard faces today.

Wednesday, April 16th

#### "Neotropical Raptor Projects in Belize" with Ryan Phillips

Located on the Caribbean coast, bordered by Mexico and Guatemala, Belize is home to a large number of rare and endangered species including the Jaguar, Baird's Tapir, and Harpy Eagle. During this talk you will learn about Belize Raptor Research Institute's (BRRI) conservation programs and cutting edge research projects, such as the Solitary Eagle Project, Stygian Owl Project, Hook-billed Kite Project and the first Raptor Watch Program in Belize.



SCVAS Welcomes  
our new Executive  
Director,  
Stephanie Ellis!

Common Sights at the  
Baylands:

Top Left - an American  
Avocet.

Right - Ruddy Duck  
Photos ©Steve Zamek



Top Right: An Ornate Hawk-Eagle at the  
Belize Raptor Research Institute  
Photo ©BRRI

(Additional information and detailed directions available at [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org) or by calling the SCVAS office)

☞ *Spring Birding Class Series is All About the Breeding Season!*

— Page 5

☞ *A Black-and-White Warbler is a Highlight of Winter Birding!*

— Field Notes, Page 6

☞ *Christmas Bird Count Results & Summaries*

— Beginning on Page 10

☞ *Spring is a Great Time for Family Birding! Young Audubon Adventures Continue!*

— Page 15

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# March - April '14 Field Trips

(Full details for all of our Field Trips are also available online at [www.scvas.org](http://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. 1, 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 2, 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 should be active. **Difficulty Level:** This field trip is highly recommended for beginning birders. **RC**

## Wednesday Mar. 5, 12:00 PM

### City of Sunnyvale Landfill

One hour. **Leaders:** Freddy Howell and Allen Royer. No RSVP necessary, but contact the landfill coordinator, Silviana Ruiz, at (408) 730-7545 with questions. **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.

## Saturday Mar. 8, 8:30 AM

### Coyote Valley OSP

Half day. **Leader:** Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. **Directions:** From 101 in San Jose take Bailey Ave. west, turn left on Hale Ave. (Santa Teresa) and right on Palm Ave. Meet at the western end of Palm Ave. in Morgan Hill. Early risers will meet at 8 AM on the western portion of Laguna Ave. in Morgan Hill, the first right after turning onto Hale Ave. **Highlights:** We will bird the lower elevations of the Open Space preserve to the west in search of recent spring migrants, soaring Hawks and Eagles. **Difficulty Level:** Cattle graze in the preserve and the trail can be rough and decorated with "cow

pies." **Notes:** Trip limited to those over 12 years of age. **RC NF**

## Sunday Mar. 9, 8:00 AM

### Charleston Slough

Half day. **Leader:** Nick Yatsko (408) 891-3187. **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. **Note:** *Spring forward or be an hour late for this trip*

## Wednesday Mar. 12, 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. 14-16

### 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 on this unique field trip.

## Saturday Mar. 22, 8:00 AM

### Picchetti Ranch OSP

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 Mar. 23, 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**

## Saturday Mar. 29, 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. 30, 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**

## Wednesday Apr. 2, 12:00 PM

### City of Sunnyvale Landfill

One hour. **Leaders:** Freddy Howell and Allen Royer. No RSVP necessary, but contact the landfill coordinator, Silviana Ruiz, at (408) 730-7545 with questions. See directions from March 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Saturday Apr. 5, 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

## **Field Trips** *continued*

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 Apr. 6, 9:00 AM** **Charleston Slough**

Half day. **Leader:** Allen Royer (408) 288-7768. For details and directions see the Mar 9th write-up.

### **Wednesday Apr. 9, 10:00 AM** **Almaden Lake Alamos Creek trail**

*Note late start time; 2 hours only.*  
**Leader:** Phyllis Swanson (408) 421-6410.  
**Directions:** From Hwy 85 in San Jose take Almaden Expwy south .8 mile then left on Coleman Rd. In .3 miles turn right onto Winfield Blvd. Meet near blue bathrooms on east side of lake. **Notes:** Park on street near lake or pay \$6 fee in parking lot. **Difficulty Level:** Easy walking. **RC**

### **Saturday Apr. 12, 8:15 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**

### **Sunday Apr. 13, 8:00 AM** **Ulistac Natural Area**

Half Day. **Leader:** Steve Tracey (408) 966-3860. **Directions:** From Hwy 237 turn right on North First St. then after about 0.4 miles right on Vista Montana then right again on West Tasman Dr. and after crossing the bridge turn left on Lick Mill Blvd. and meet at the South entrance to the park. **Highlights:** We will look for migrants and local breeding birds in diverse habitat that does not require an entrance fee. **NF**

### **Saturday Apr. 19, 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. Entrance fee required. **LO, RC**

### **Sunday Apr. 20, 8:15 AM** **Arastradero OSP**

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

### **Wednesday Apr. 23, 8:30 AM** **Bald Mt. and/or Sierra Azul Woods Road Trail**

Half day. **Leader:** Janna Pauser (408) 569-9264. **Directions:** From Hwy 85 in San Jose, take Almaden Expwy south 4.3 miles and bear right onto Almaden Rd., through New Almaden township. Park in Almaden-Quicksilver Hacienda parking lot on your right. We'll carpool to Hicks Rd. from here and bird Bald Mt. or Woods Road in Sierra Azul, depending on conditions. **Highlights:** This late April trip is timed for migrating and breeding birds. **Difficulty Level:** Moderately easy walking. **Notes:** bring water, limited facilities. **LO, RC**

### **Saturday Apr. 26, 9:00 AM** **Stanford Campus**

Half day. **Leader:** Dick Stovel (650) 856-6105. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 in Palo Alto take University Ave. and exit west through downtown and onto Stanford campus (University Ave. becomes Palm Dr. on campus). Meet at the end of Palm Dr. at entrance to the Main Quad. **Highlights:** This is the second of two field trips to the Stanford Campus this season. **Difficulty Level:** Highly recommended for beginning birders. **RC**

### **Sunday Apr. 27, 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 - email Sonny to reserve a space; those without e-mail should call (650) 814-8028. **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 (DO NOT LEAVE EARLIER, AS PARKING OUTSIDE THE GATE IS NOT ALLOWED, SINCE IT POSES AN UNACCEPTABLE TRAFFIC HAZARD!); the gate will then be open. 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. **Notes:** There is a \$5 per person fee for the Jasper Ridge Field Trip.

### **Saturday May 3, 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 4, 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**



Don't Forget:  
The SCVAS Nature Shop has books and birding guides for all levels, interests and locales. Come for a visit and check us out!

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# Conservation Corner

By Shani Kleinhaus

*Environmental Advocate*

## Purple Martins at Mt. Umunhum

Prominent on the skyline the Sierra Azul, looking over Santa Clara County, is the concrete radar box on the summit of Mt. Umunhum (an Ohlone word for hummingbird or “resting place of the hummingbird”). The box is a reminder of Almaden Air Force Station, a military complex that left the mountaintop with a toxic and hazardous legacy.

Midpeninsula regional Open Space District (MROSD) embarked on the “Mount Umunhum Environmental Restoration and Public Access Project” in 2009, aiming to clean up the hazards and the dilapidated buildings, and build trails and amenities for public enjoyment. SCVAS has been supportive of the project, as birders look forward to the opportunity to visit the mountaintop. In recent years we were heartened by reports of Purple Martins nesting and raising chicks in old power poles on the mountaintop.

Populations of Purple Martins are declining over much of North America, including California where Purple Martins are rare and listed as a Species of Special Concern. In Santa Clara County, Purple Martin range has contracted to a 15-km segment of the Summit Ridge in the Santa Cruz Mountains, including Mt. Umunhum. In our conversations with MROSD, we requested that nesting sites be protected, and additional nesting sites be created for the birds.

Unfortunately, as cleanup work proceeded, the old power poles crumbled. MROSD responded quickly, and has already started the construction of new nesting sites for the Purple Martins. In 2017, when the park opens, you will see starling-proof nest boxes attached to 12-ft poles and placed on the perimeter of the mountaintop.

We thank MROSD for the prompt response and the effort to grow the population of Purple Martins in our region. We hope the new nest boxes will be the first thing Purple Martins see when they return from their wintering grounds in South America.

## Lake Almaden

On January 22nd, the Santa Clara Valley Water District announced two additional alternatives for the Almaden Lake project. As before, the project looks to separate Alamos Creek from the Lake with the goal of reducing the production of toxic methyl mercury in the lake. The project would also help the threatened Steelhead Trout migrate between the Bay and their spawning grounds upstream. In our communications with the Water District, we supported local residents interests in keeping a relatively large open body of water in the lake. We also asked for an additional island for roosting and nesting birds. Our request was honored, and the new alternatives include two islands, each close to an acre in size. The District proposed to plant both willows and other native plants to enhance nesting habitat. We hope one of the new alternatives will be selected as the preferred alternative.

Please contact us at [shani@scvas.org](mailto:shani@scvas.org) if you are interested in learning about these or any of our other projects.

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# Volunteer Ventures

by Toby Goldberg, Programs Coordinator

Did you know that each year since 1974, there has been an entire week devoted to celebrating the accomplishments of the millions of people around the country who freely give of their time, talents and energy to help make the world a better place? I might argue that a single week isn't nearly long enough to honor this generosity, but we're thrilled to be able to use this opportunity to recognize the volunteers that mean so much to our organizations.

This year's National Volunteer Week theme is “Celebrate Service” and will be held from **April 6<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>**. According to the Points of Light website, “National Volunteer Week ... is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek out imaginative ways to engage in their communities. It's about demonstrating to the nation that by working together, we have the fortitude to meet our challenges and accomplish our goals. [It] is about taking action and encouraging individuals and their respective communities to be at the center of social change – discovering and actively demonstrating their collective power to make a difference.”

SCVAS volunteers definitely participate in achieving these goals in our area, and we are so very grateful to each and every one! Please stop in the office to say hello and let us show our appreciation, or join us for this special event just for you:

Our annual **Volunteer Appreciation Birdwalk and Dinner at McClellan Ranch Preserve will be held on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**. We'll take advantage of the lengthening spring days, and the expertise of our Executive Director and members of our Board, 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), with dinner at 6:30PM. Please RSVP no later than **Monday April 7<sup>th</sup>** to (408) 252-3740 or [programs@scvas.org](mailto:programs@scvas.org). We look forward to seeing you!

**GET INVOLVED!** Spring 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 it's 25th year - is rewarding for both volunteers and the hundreds of South Bay children who participate (over 1800 last 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/cnrp](http://www.scvas.org/cnrp).

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

# Adult Education Spring Birding Series - 2014

The following classes are sponsored by the SCVAS Education Committee. To register please call the office at (408) 252-3747. All cancellations require 72-hour prior notification for refunds. Information about our upcoming classes is also available on our website at [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org).

## **Birding By Ear with Garth Harwood** (*Director of Education at Hidden Villa*)

Start off your weekends by brushing up on your bird song identification skills. This 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: Sat.'s 3/29, 4/05, & 4/19; 8-10AM.

Location: Varies.

Fee: \$45 m/\$70 nm

**Limited to 15 participants.**

## **An introduction to Bird Mating Behavior with Lisa Myers** (*Founder of LetsGoBirding.com*)

This class will focus on the pair bonding aspects of the Avian breeding season. This includes spring migration, plumage and biological changes, song, defending a territory, copulation and more. It's a lot of hard work for the birds! Learn how the breeding season can help you become a better birder.

Dates: Class: Tues.'s 4/15 & 4/22; 7-9PM.

Location:

McClellan Ranch, Cupertino.

Fee: \$45 m/\$70 nm



## **Nests and Nesting - Identifying Birds By What They Build with Freddy Howell & Toby Goldberg** (*SCVAS Ed Committee*)

The way a bird builds its nest can you tell you where it lives, what it eats, and much more. This information can be a valuable tool in learning how to identify birds in the field. We'll discuss the different ways birds nest, examine many of their creations, and learn what we need to look for when birding. Our field trip will then visit the nest boxes at McClellan Ranch to see nesting in action.

Dates: Class: Mon. 4/28, 6:30-8PM; Field: Sat. 5/3, 8:30-10:30AM.

Location: McClellan Ranch, Cupertino.

Fee: \$35 m/\$50 nm

## **Life in the Egg with Stephanie Ellis** (*SCVAS Executive Director*)

This fun and informative class covers the basics of avian reproduction from start to finish. Participants will learn about avian reproductive anatomy, fertilization, egg production, incubation, development of a chick within its egg, and more. In class, you will dissect a chicken egg and learn all of its components, and learn why eggs are one of the most delicate, yet perfect things on the planet. You will never look at an egg the same way again!

Date: Mon. 5/5, 6:30-8:30PM.

Location: McClellan Ranch, Cupertino.

Fee: \$25 m/\$40 nm

**Unless otherwise specified, all of the above classes are limited to 20 participants. Want to sign up for all four classes? Enjoy a special 10% discount off the whole series!**

## **SCVAS Events Calendar:**

**Sun. 3/1; 9:30AM-11:30AM**

### **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. Rain date is 3/2.

Please RSVP to Tex directly at 650-303-2777 or [350co2now@gmail.com](mailto:350co2now@gmail.com).

**Wed. 3/5 & 4/2; 7:30-9:00PM**

### **Bay Area Bird Photographers**

Lucy Evans Nature Center, Palo Alto  
Topic 3/5: "Birds of Northern Chile and the USA" with Luis Villablanca  
Topic 4/2: "Birding Through the Camera" with Caroline Lambert  
Go to [www.scvas.org/babp](http://www.scvas.org/babp) for details.

**Tues. 3/11 & 4/8; 10AM**

Eve Case Bird Discussion Group - meets

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

Topic 3/11: House Sparrow

Topic 4/8: Crossbills

**Wed. 3/12 & 4/9; 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](http://www.scvas.org) for more details.

**Wed. 3/12; 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.

**Thur. April 10th; 4:30PM (Dinner at 6:30PM) Volunteer Appreciation Dinner & Birdwalk**

McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino

See page 4 for details

**Sat. 4/19; 8-10:30AM**

### **Young Audubon Bird Banding**

See page 15 for details

## **SAVE THE DATE:**

**September 7th - 13th**

*Cape Cod Field Seminar with Stephanie Ellis and Jim Sweeney*

Enjoy shorebirds, raptors, warblers, and whales, on beautiful Cape Cod, MA.

Look for more info on our website and in the May/June Avocet, or email [executivedirector@scvas.org](mailto:executivedirector@scvas.org)

# Field Notes

*(December 2013-January 2014)*

by Bill Bousman

## Geese through Pelicans

An immature **Greater White-fronted Goose** was found in Cupertino on 10 Dec (PLD). Another immature was seen at the kite-flying area at Shoreline Park on 14 Dec (AME) and remained there through 6 Jan (v.ob.). Between two and four birds were observed to move between the Palo Alto Muni GC and the Baylands 21-29 Jan (DSt, v.ob.). A **Snow Goose** was seen on Calero Reservoir on 3 Dec (PDU). Two birds were in Pond A16 in Alviso on 4-25 Jan (FV, RKe, m.ob.). A **Ross's Goose** found along Thompson Creek above Tully Road on 15 Dec (JPa) has remained in the area through 26 Jan (v.ob.). **Eurasian Wigeon** were found in many locations along the Bay in this period. One was at the Sunnyvale WPCP on 1 Dec (MDo, KDo). One or two were in Pond A14 in Alviso 6 Dec-18 Jan (WGB, m.ob.). One was seen in Pond A2E on 31 Dec (LBe). A male was in Adobe Creek on 7 Jan (CL) and 19 Jan (EFe et al.). Four males were in closed refuge ponds on 18 Jan and another male at the mouth of Stevens Creek the same day (MMR, MJM, LCr). Single males were in Pond A16 in Alviso on 21 Jan (WGB) and the outfall channel at the Palo Alto Baylands on 26 Jan (AV). A female **Blue-winged Teal** was found again on the Mountain View Forebay on 5 Dec (MDo). A pair was seen at the holding ponds in the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 15 Dec (SEM). The major Blue-winged Teal concentration was in Artesian (Mallard) Slough 1-29 Jan (PDU, m.ob.). The high counts were four males on 23 Jan (JMa) and two females on 29 Jan (SJa). The November male **Blue-winged X Cinnamon Teal** was found there again on 8 Dec-29 Jan (MJM, LCr, v.ob.), and a different hybrid teal was there on 29 Jan (SJa). The high count of wintering **Redhead** was 20 birds on the Alviso ponds on 15 Dec (MMR, NMa), our lowest count in well over a decade. We were bereft of **Barrow's Goldeneyes** in December, but the first of the expected Shoreline Lake crowd was a female seen on 2 Jan (SEM). By the period's end, a pair was there and an additional two or three males were on the lake or in nearby Pond A1 (m.ob.). The only Barrow's away from these areas was an immature male in Pond A13 in Alviso on 18 Jan (MMR, MJM, LCr). The 94 **Red-breasted Mergansers** tallied on the Alviso ponds on 18 Jan (MMR, MJM, LCr) was a fairly good number for the South Bay. An immature male inland at the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) percolation ponds 4-12 Dec (JPa, BHa) was changing from immature to adult plumage. Our token loon for the winter period was a juvenile **Red-throated**

**Loon** on closed refuge ponds on 18 Jan (MMR, MJM, LCr). In recent years, it has been usual to have **Brown Pelicans** after December. During this period only one bird was seen in January, a juvenile over the Sunnyvale WPCP oxidation ponds on 17 Jan (WGB).

## Bitterns through Skimmers

The **American Bittern** in the entrance channel to the Mountain View Forebay in October and November was not seen again until 31 Dec (PMB). It has been seen regularly in January (m.ob.). Other wintering bitterns included one found in creek channels near the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 15 Dec (SEM),

*Top rarities of the period included a Rough-legged Hawk, a Cattle Egret, and a Black-and-White Warbler.*

one north of Pond A14 on 15 Dec (MMR, NMa), and one to two birds along the Alviso Slough 31 Dec-1 Jan (PDU, MHo, SCR). A **Cattle Egret** at the ponds of the Coyote Creek GC 27 Dec-5 Jan (SCR, m.ob.) was the only record for 2013. Interestingly, this bird was found at the Kirby Canyon Landfill on 28 Dec as well as at the GC. **Ferruginous Hawks** were well reported from Coyote Valley with at least three birds there on 28 Dec (RPh et al.), 11 Jan (AA), and 15 Jan (RWR, FV). Elsewhere, a juvenile was at Tennant and Foothill in San Martin 9-14 Dec (JF, BHa), one was over Ed Levin CP on 15 Dec (LMy et al.), two were on the east side of Calaveras Reservoir on 15 Dec (PKi et al.), one was along Marsh Road on 20 Dec (CVR), another was on the west side of

Calaveras Reservoir on 22 Dec (SS), two were along Coyote Ridge on 28 Dec (SCR), one was along San Felipe Road on 28 Dec (MMR), and single birds were in the San Antonio Valley (WGB, RPa) and Isabel Valley (MMR, NMa), both on 30 Dec. About half of these records were on private lands accessed on our CBCs. An adult female **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen flying from Santa Clara County into San Benito County near Lover's Lane off Hwy 152 on 8 Jan (DLSh), our first since the winter of 2007-08. About 14 **Snowy Plovers** were found in Pond A13 on 15 Dec (MMR, NMa), but none after that. Wintering **Lesser Yellowlegs** appear to be becoming more common in the South Bay. The high count was of 12 birds on Pond A12 in Alviso on 18 Jan (MMR, MJM, LCr). A single bird along San Tomas Aquino Creek on 23 Jan (PKi et al.) was slightly away from the Bay, but one in the Isabel Valley in the Diablo Range at about 2300 feet on 30 Dec (MMR, MJM, NMa) was only the third record for the Mt. Hamilton CBC in 37 years. **Red Knots** are particularly rare in the winter period so three on Pond A14 on 16 Dec and one on Pond A9 on 1 Jan (both MHo) were of interest. In this mostly stormless period, the only **Red Phalaropes** were one to two birds in Pond A12 on 7-8 Dec (PDU, MJM). Two **Glaucous Gulls**, a 1st-cycle and a 2nd-cycle, were at the Kirby Canyon Landfill on 28 Dec (SCR). These birds probably commute to the Ogier Avenue ponds, but two 1st-cycle birds there on 28 Jan (WGB) showed different plumage characters. No **Black Skimmers** have been reported since August, so it was nice that one showed up in Charleston Slough on 31 Dec (PMB) and remained there at least through 13 Jan (v.ob.).

## Roadrunners through Solitaire

The only report of a **Greater Roadrunner** was one at Coyote Reservoir on 14 Dec (BHa, THa). Single **Short-eared Owls** were daytime sightings along Alviso Slough on 15 Dec (MMR, NMa) and 2 Jan (MHo). Four **Short-eared Owls** at dusk were found again this winter in the Coyote Valley on 28 Dec (RPh et al.) and were seen there irregularly through 31 Jan (v.ob.). Six birds were observed on 31 Jan (RPh, AB). The male **Costa's Hummingbird** at Vasona CP was last seen there on 7 Dec (SJa), it was present for 115 days as it molted from immature to adult plumage. The minor fall and winter movement of **Lewis's Woodpeckers** into the western Diablo Range continued with one-to-two birds at the Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch CP 2-12 Dec (JF, BHa) and likely a different bird nearby off Roop Road on 10 Dec (JPa et al.). The Mt. Hamilton CBC reported 62 birds in Isabel Valley (MMR, MJM, NMa) and 14 along Mines Road and in the northern San Antonio Valley (RFu et al.). These numbers are more than twice the long-term average. The wintering adult male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at Ed Levin CP was seen more or less regularly



*Rough-legged Hawk  
©Tom Grey*

## Field Notes *cont'd*

through the period and was well photographed. Another bird was reported from Santa Teresa CP on 13 Dec (JTh). A male **Red-naped Sapsucker** was seen and photographed at Foothills College on 11 Jan (CO'C). It showed some limited red feathers not expected for this species, but within the range of museum specimens (*fide* SCR). Single birds at Ed Levin CP on 11 Jan (JAC) and the SCVWD ponds on 23-24 Jan (JPa, KBu) were also reported. As occurs in most winters, multiple hybrid sapsuckers were also seen. Approximately 10 **Prairie Falcons** were seen, most within the Diablo Range. Flatland or Santa Cruz Mountain foothill birds included one bird in the Coyote Valley 9 Dec-21 Jan (v.ob.), one near the Jubilee Christian Church in Alviso on 15 Dec (WGB, JTh), and one near Uvas Reservoir on 7 Jan (MJM). A **Cassin's Kingbird** was seen northeast of Hellyer Avenue on 28 Dec (PDU), about our third winter record. Wintering **Tree Swallows** were few this winter, 40+ over Lake Cunningham on 13 Dec (JPa) was the high count. Six birds examining previous years' nest sites along Coyote Creek near the Coyote Creek GC on 31 Jan (RPh) were early. The only other winter swallow was a **Barn Swallow** among the trees at Lake Cunningham on 13 Dec (JPa). Flatland **Pygmy Nuthatch** reports are always of interest. Two came to feeders along Southampton Drive in Palo Alto on 1 Jan (JMu, RPo), probably the most southerly flatland record yet. A **House Wren** was seen along the San Francisquito Creek Trail near the golf course on 16 Dec (MMR, NMa). Another bird was found at the SCVWD ponds on 30 Dec and 1 Jan (JPa). Half-hardy **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** included one along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 15 Dec (WGB, JTh), another near the dam at Calero Reservoir on 28 Dec (RCP), and two birds near the Fortini Trail in Santa Teresa CP on 3 Jan (JPa). An **American Dipper** was spotted along Stevens Creek above Mt. Eden Road on three occasions between 28 Dec and 17 Jan (LMY, MMR, MJM, LCR). After a slow start, quite a few **Golden-crowned Kinglets** showed up during the period. On 28 Dec, seven birds were found along San Felipe Creek and Road (MMR), three were near IBM on Bailey Avenue (RHe), and three were in pines east of Coyote Ridge (SCR). More surprising were three kinglets on the east side of the Isabel Valley on 30 Dec (MMR, MJM, NMa). The John Nicholas Trail provided a single bird on 11 Jan (MJM, LCR) and more than 10 birds in one flock on 15 Jan (JPa, AV et al.). A single bird was in Graystone Park on 13 Jan (JPa). A **Townsend's Solitaire** turned up on 30 Dec in Trumpler's Garden near the top of Mt. Hamilton (KHo, DaS, EG).

### Phainopepla through Goldfinches

A female **Phainopepla** was seen in the Isabel Valley on 30 Dec (MMR, MJM, NMa).

The best vagrant in January was a female **Black-and-White Warbler** that showed up in a Mountain View yard on 12 Jan (HH) and then moved on. A **Nashville Warbler** seen at Lake Cunningham on 15 Dec (JPa) was probably trying to winter. A **Common Yellowthroat** found in the Isabel Valley on 30 Dec (MMR, MJM, NMa) is only the second record for the Mt. Hamilton count. In some winters we have multiple **Yellow Warblers** that hang on, but only one near the Palo Alto WQCP on 16 Dec (MMR, NMa) was found this season. Overwintering **Wilson's Warblers** are found about every other year, but we had three this year. The first was on the Guadalupe River Trail below Blossom Hill Road on 4 Dec (JPa), the second was in a subdivision east of Thompson Creek on 21 Jan (JPa et al.), and the third was at the SCVWD ponds on 25 Jan (MMR). The wintering **Chipping Sparrows** that have used Jeffrey Fontana Park in San Jose have moved west to TJ Martin Park, two were seen on 8 Jan (JPa) and one on 13 Jan (MJM). A **Vesper Sparrow** was found at the Sierra Road summit on 11 Jan (WGB). A **Bell's Sparrow** was seen near Loma Prieta on 28 Dec (JDo et al.) and multiple birds were found along Mines Road on 30 Dec (RFu et al.). It has apparently been a good season for overwintering **Grasshopper Sparrows** hiding in our grasslands. One was in Santa Teresa CP on 1 Dec (JPa), the next on Coyote Ridge on 28 Dec (CEd), another in Santa Teresa CP on 17 Jan (JPa), and a surprising five on the trail to Monument Peak on 20 Jan (MHo). **Swamp Sparrows** continued along the trail at the Palo Alto Baylands that parallels the runway. Most folks saw a single bird, but photos suggest that at least three may have been present in the area during the period. Well away from the Bay, a **Swamp Sparrow** was found along Coyote Creek below Silver Creek Valley Road on 18 Dec (JPa). On New Year's Day, one was seen along the Alviso Slough (SCR) and another between Ponds A16 and A17 (PDU). Good numbers of **White-throated Sparrows** continued with at least 17 for the period and three more at feeders. A female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** popped up in a Milpitas yard on 10 Dec (MO'B). We only have winter birds every five or ten years or so. Lake Cunningham and the Coyote Creek GC/Ogier Avenue ponds remained the center of distribution for **Great-tailed Grackles** with high counts at the former of 36-43 birds on 15 Jan (WGB) and 13 at the latter on 28 Dec (KHo, RPa, MJM). An overwintering 1st-year male **Bullock's Oriole** was found at the SCVWD ponds on 24 Jan (KBu) and was seen also on 29 Jan (JPa, CL). Spring arrivals normally show up in early March. Two **Pine Siskins** along the John Nicholas Trail on 13 Jan (MHo) were the only report. **Lawrence's Goldfinches** have been in high numbers in the Diablo Range for the second winter in a row. On 30 Dec, the tally in Isabel Valley was 194 (MMR, MJM,



NMa), 38 were counted on Mines Road (RFu et al.), and 21 in the San Antonio Valley (WGB, RPa). The Santa Cruz Mountains had a few birds including two in the Sierra Azul OSP on 14 Dec (ER), four in Palo Alto Foothills Park on 16 Dec (KHo, RPa), four at the Stanford Dish on 28 Dec (JVM, MBi), and four at Monte Bello on 3 Jan (GHa).

Observers: Arvind Agrawal (AA), Laurie Bechtler (LBe), Mary Bibb (MBi), Bill Bousman (WGB), Andy Bradshaw (AB), Phyllis Browning (PMB), Karen Burnson (KBu), Jack Cole (JAC), Lea Crisp (LCr), Kelly Dodder (KDo), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Peggy Don (PLD), Judy Donaldson (JDo), Pete Duntun (PDU), Craig Edgerton (CED), Al Eisner (AME), Eric Feuss (EFu), John Fox (JF), Rob Farrow (RFu), Elinor Gates (EG), Beth Hamel (BHa), Tom Hamel (THa), Garth Harwood (GHa), Rick Herder (RHe), Howard Higley (HH), Kirsten Holmquist (KHo), Marcel Holyoak (MHo), Sastry Jandhyala (SJa), Roland Kenner (RKe), Petra Kinsman (PKi), Caroline Lambert (CL), Nateri Madavan (NMa), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Juliana Manoliu (JMa), Steve Miller (SEM), John Moore (JVM), Julio Mulero (JMu), Lisa Myers (LMY), Matthew O'Brien (MO'B), Chris O'Connell (CO'C), Rich Page (RPa), Janna Pauser (JPa), Ryan Phillips (RPh), Renee Polizotto (RPO), Bob Power (RCP), Bob Reiling (RWR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Edward Rooks (ER), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Debra Shearwater (DLSh), Dale Stalbecker (DaS), Dick Stovel (DSt), Jim Thomas (JTh), Frank Vanslager (FV), Ann Verdi (AV), and Chuq Von Rospach (CVR).

**RARITIES:** Please drop me a note:  
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Menlo Park, CA 94025,  
or: barlowi@earthlink.net

# The 2014 SCVAS Spring Birdathon Wants YOU!

**E**veryone, from beginner to expert birder, can participate in the 2014 SCVAS Spring Birdathon, a **major fundraising event** for SCVAS Conservation efforts and youth Environmental Education. **Your participation** makes a difference to kids, birds, and to the quality of life in the South Bay.

- **Anyone can win fabulous prizes**, from birding trips to resort getaways, excellent wines, and much more, by raising money and being a top fundraiser! It's not like the top 3 get prizes, or the top 5, or the top ten; **more than 30 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/birdathon](http://www.scvas.org/birdathon) after February 1, 2014, 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](http://www.scvas.org).

## How to join in the Birdathon fun, raise money, and compete for a prize:

1. Check [scvas.org/birdathon](http://scvas.org/birdathon) for rules, information, and prize list. Check back, as the prize list will be updated often.
2. **Talk to your birding friends** about forming a **Self-Guided Team** or joining a Guided Team for the 2014 SCVAS Spring Birdathon - pick a day to bird from March 29th to April 27th, inclusive.
3. **\*\*\* Photographers participate in the Birdathon too!** Just check the rules.\*\*\*
4. **Register** yourself and your team or join a **Guided Team** led by one of our many expert birders (see page 9) by calling Susan Bell at the SCVAS Office, 408-252-3747 or online at [scvas.org/birdathon](http://scvas.org/birdathon)
  - A. In the "4-hour category," join a team that birds several spots in four hours, or join one of our "Big Sit" teams.
  - B. In the "24-hour category" join an all day guided team;
5. **Plan your birding day** with your Self-Guided teammates. Create a 4-Hour or 24-hour (anything more than 4 hours) Birdathon that fits your team.
6. **Raise money - at least \$50 per team member**. It's so much easier than you think. **Just 5 friends sponsoring you at \$10 each!**
7. **Bird with your team** on your Birdathon Day and have fun! Post a photo of you in action on Facebook. Send your sponsors a bird photo.
8. **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 12th, 5:00 p.m.**, to be eligible for prizes.
9. **Attend the free Birdathon Awards Dinner on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**.



The Snipe Hunters Birdathon Team, 2013, enjoys a beautiful day of birding at Alviso. A birdy bunch if ever there was one!

*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 [scvas.org/birdathon](http://scvas.org/birdathon).

## Photographer's Birdathon!

*Eight pioneering photographers launched the Photographer's Birdathon in 2011. In 2012, Barry Langdon-Lasagne shattered the 24-hour record with 123 species captured and Julio Mulero took the 4-hour honors with 49 captures from a tugboat! Join us for year four of this photographer's challenge.*

Using the same time period, March 29th to April 27th, 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 not only compete with other birders for the fundraising prizes, but also compete for **best bird photograph, rarest bird, and most species identified in the 4-hour and 24-hour categories**. 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!*



## 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. Additional details - including registration information, deadlines and team descriptions - available online at [scvas.org/birdathon](http://scvas.org/birdathon).

### **Bob-O-Links** with Bob Power - *Sat, March 29th*

Bob's leadership style will complement all birding levels, including yours! This is a perfect team if you haven't done a Birdathon before, but want to experience a fast-paced big-day with a leader who can find all the birds! Wee hours of the morning to dusk. 140+ species.

### **Persistent Picidaes** with Lisa Myers (Let's Go Birding) - *Sun, April 6th*

The Picidaes will start at 7:30 AM and count until dusk in select spots around Santa Clara County. This

## 24-hour Birdathon Teams

(for any team out for more than 4 hours)

is the perfect team regardless of your birding skill level - everyone is welcome, you'll have a great time and team members are gracious and helpful for all who wish to participate. If you need a pair of binoculars, let Lisa know and they will be provided. Team limited to 20. Full day. 100+ species.

### **The Fledglings** with Pati Rouzer - *Sun, April 20th*

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 2:00 PM to beat our last year's record of 65 species.

### **Varied Twitchers** with Mike Rogers - *Sat, April 26th*

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.

Joining this team is a perfect way to celebrate John J. Audubon who was born on this day in 1785! Predawn-to-dusk. 160+ species.

### **Rock Wrens** with Bob Hirt - *Sun, April 27th*

Join this long-time birder and SCVAS Board Member for an active day in the field. They'll start early for owls in the western foothills, zigzag to the Bay for shorebirds, and then climb up the eastern slope, ending after dusk. Bob is ready to help beginning birders join the excitement! Predawn-to-dusk. 140+ species.

### **Surf Scoters** with Susan Bell - *Sat, March 29th*

Count birds in the marshes of Alviso Slough from a unique vantage 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 at 10:30 AM to tour the historic South Bay Yacht Club then set sail at 11 AM to count until 3 PM. Team limited to eight sign-ups due to space limitations. 30+ species.

### **Cheeky Chickadees** with Debbie Thompson - *Sat, April 12th*

Fun but productive birding is the main objective for this team. Visit a slice of the bay area - from the wetlands to the woodlands - to uncover as many species as possible, 8 AM to noon. 70+ species.

### **Hi-Speed Rails** with Bob

## 4-hour Birdathon Teams

### **Power** - *Sun, April 13th*

Help Bob find all the birds 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 7-11 AM. 80+ species, but wishing for 100 so we need your help!

### **Birding's "Big Game"**

#### **Stanford vs Cal** with Rob

Furrow - Sun, April 13th  
Which campus has the most birds - Stanford or Cal? Join our team at Stanford University as we face off against the Golden Gate Audubon Society at U.C. Berkeley (Cal) 50+ species expected.

### **Mean Green Birding Machines** with Rob Furrow - *Sat, April 19th*

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.

### **Rushing Thrushes** with Bob Power - *Sun, April 20th*

Bob's east-side blitz for 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.

### **Cupertino Creek Cruisers** with Debi Jamison - *Sun, April 20th (rain date April 27th)* Take a leisurely 1-mile stroll along

Stevens Creek from McClellan Rd to Stevens Creek Blvd. as we conduct the Creek Cruiser's 11th annual spring bird survey. After the first 4 hours, you are invited to continue on for about 2 hours more to complete the survey by birding the Stockmeir property where Cupertino's creek restoration project is newly completed! We'll 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 (4 hours) or the entire survey. 8 AM-12 PM. 50+ species.

### **The Oh-My-Godwits!** with Beth Hamel -

Grab your camera and binoculars and see how many species of birds the team can photograph in four hours. Beth honed her strategy last year resulting in a fun Birdathon twist! 60+ species.

## Big-sit Challenge Birdathon Teams (Sat, April 19th; 8AM-12PM)

### **Eagle Eyes** with Bob Power

This 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

Our new Executive Director, Stephanie, will migrate over to Charleston Slough in Mountain View for a morning of shorebirds in an area perfectly situated between multiple habitats. 40+ species.

# 2013 SANTA CLARA COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Species	SJ 12/15/13	PA 12/16/13	MtH 12/29/13	Cal-MH 12/28/13	Species	SJ 12/15/13	PA 12/16/13	MtH 12/29/13	Cal-MH 12/28/13
Greater White-fronted Goose	-	1	-	-	Virginia Rail	40	5	4	-
Ross's Goose	1	-	-	-	Sora	77	6	5	3
Cackling Goose	10	4	-	1	Common Gallinule	10	2	-	3
Canada Goose	1226	1208	4	710	American Coot	5033	6328	191	1837
Wood Duck	-	CW	5	76	Black-necked Stilt	829	100	-	3
Gadwall	181	171	8	110	American Avocet	1390	1764	-	-
Eurasian Wigeon	2	4	-	-	Black-bellied Plover	198	3798	-	-
American Wigeon	2201	1798	153	203	Snowy Plover	35	-	-	-
Mallard	1155	634	46	713	Semipalmated Plover	3	6540	-	-
Blue-winged Teal	5	2	-	-	Killdeer	224	77	12	83
Cinnamon Teal	81	9	-	-	Spotted Sandpiper	8	3	-	9
Northern Shoveler	5215	5127	2	35	Greater Yellowlegs	62	62	8	6
Northern Pintail	731	1446	1	-	Willet	324	1329	-	-
Green-winged Teal	1857	828	36	9	Lesser Yellowlegs	9	1	1	-
Canvasback	3581	2754	2	29	Whimbrel	3	-	-	-
Redhead	23	76	-	-	Long-billed Curlew	382	8	-	8
Ring-necked Duck	32	34	85	108	Marbled Godwit	479	912	-	-
Greater Scaup	836	177	-	28	Ruddy Turnstone	-	1	-	-
Lesser Scaup	757	435	5	15	Red Knot	-	14	-	-
<i>aythya</i> , sp	1940	2691	-	-	Dunlin	3591	1839	1	-
Surf Scoter	60	123	-	-	Least Sandpiper	1777	682	-	31
Bufflehead	1138	288	82	179	Western Sandpiper	11736	7467	-	-
Common Goldeneye	289	322	-	36	peep sp	1020	5080	-	-
Hybrid Goldeneye	-	1	-	-	Short-billed Dowitcher	6	69	-	-
Hooded Merganser	47	27	2	9	Long-billed Dowitcher	610	62	-	-
Common Merganser	81	74	9	412	dowitcher sp	1147	1232	-	-
Red-breasted Merganser	102	7	-	-	Wilson's Snipe	36	9	8	29
Ruddy Duck	7072	16713	155	181	Bonaparte's Gull	60	14	-	-
duck sp	3102	3320	-	-	Mew Gull	242	9	-	3
California Quail	168	71	329	445	Ring-billed Gull	738	426	-	79
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	-	-	-	Western Gull	115	17	-	8
Wild Turkey	234	37	61	349	California Gull	1640	488	-	1730
Pied-billed Grebe	194	101	27	88	Herring Gull	6478	60	-	5900
Horned Grebe	16	24	-	2	Thayer's Gull	75	6	-	677
Eared Grebe	2248	400	6	27	Glaucous-winged Gull	293	50	-	623
Western Grebe	141	63	-	63	Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	2
Clark's Grebe	59	22	-	4	Glaucous-winged x Western Gull	-	2	-	2
<i>aechmophorus</i> , sp	189	13	-	-	gull sp	604	1010	-	807
Double-crested Cormorant	397	268	-	438	Forster's Tern	1026	15	-	-
American White Pelican	88	21	-	1	Rock Pigeon	1430	636	18	785
Brown Pelican	16	11	-	-	Band-tailed Pigeon	93	38	141	66
American Bittern	1	-	-	-	Eurasian Collared-Dove	58	28	27	93
Great Blue Heron	51	29	8	24	Mourning Dove	240	165	23	198
Great Egret	67	47	3	46	Barn Owl	1	1	-	5
Snowy Egret	124	53	-	25	Western Screech-Owl	2	5	5	8
Cattle Egret	-	-	-	1	Great Horned Owl	10	4	8	12
Green Heron	4	5	-	5	Northern Pygmy-Owl	2	1	1	-
Black-crowned Night-Heron	99	94	-	6	Burrowing Owl	7	5	-	3
Turkey Vulture	206	92	4	292	Short-eared Owl	2	-	-	4
Osprey	1	-	-	2	White-throated Swift	46	11	2	4
White-tailed Kite	27	18	-	24	Anna's Hummingbird	393	533	12	411
Bald Eagle	4	-	8	4	Belted Kingfisher	9	6	1	20
Northern Harrier	42	19	1	21	Lewis's Woodpecker	-	-	79	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	6	5	5	Acorn Woodpecker	216	287	411	342
Cooper's Hawk	12	12	2	14	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	-	-	-
<i>accipiter</i> , sp	1	3	-	1	Red-breasted Sapsucker	15	7	18	19
Red-shouldered Hawk	29	34	1	47	hybrid Sapsucker	-	1	-	2
Red-tailed Hawk	188	145	50	215	Nuttall's Woodpecker	65	111	44	122
Ferruginous Hawk	2	-	2	7	Downy Woodpecker	13	18	1	7
Golden Eagle	14	1	10	22	Hairy Woodpecker	7	31	10	15
Clapper Rail	-	5	-	-					

Species	SJ 12/15/13	PA 12/16/13	MtH 12/29/13	Cal-MH 12/28/13
Northern (Red-Shafted) Flicker	122	107	28	173
Northern Yellow-Shafted Flicker	-	-	-	CW
integrate	-	-	1	-
Flicker (form ?)	-	-	24	-
Pileated Woodpecker	-	1	-	-
American Kestrel	50	15	4	46
Merlin	8	8	6	5
Peregrine Falcon	18	4	-	6
Prairie Falcon	4	-	2	5
<i>falco</i> , sp	-	1	-	2
Black Phoebe	307	215	11	202
Say's Phoebe	40	13	7	34
Cassin's Kingbird	-	-	-	1
Loggerhead Shrike	12	3	-	8
Hutton's Vireo	3	53	1	24
Steller's Jay	212	288	30	140
Western Scrub-Jay	312	443	386	787
Yellow-billed Magpie	97	-	102	181
American Crow	719	1008	36	1700
Common Raven	108	122	68	197
Horned Lark	22	-	-	163
Tree Swallow	42	-	-	-
Barn Swallow	2	-	-	-
swallow sp	2	3	-	-
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	157	762	11	333
Oak Titmouse	96	361	232	299
Bushtit	792	998	105	660
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	1	-	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	46	80	96	152
Pygmy Nuthatch	-	23	-	-
Brown Creeper	5	51	1	11
Rock Wren	11	-	-	18
House Wren	-	2	-	CW
Pacific Wren	1	9	-	1
Marsh Wren	84	18	2	1
Bewick's Wren	51	212	44	90
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	-	-	1
American Dipper	1	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	1	9	13
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	212	284	32	311
Wrentit	14	107	32	43
Western Bluebird	188	291	185	255
Towson's Solitaire	-	-	1	-
Hermit Thrush	129	165	24	113
American Robin	352	1158	11	1173
Varied Thrush	24	115	5	39
California Thrasher	1	19	12	18
Northern Mockingbird	90	35	-	54
European Starling	2376	1000	211	3045
American Pipit	72	103	1	64
Cedar Waxwing	250	782	31	279
Phainopepla	-	-	1	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	8	5	-	1
Nashville Warbler	1	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	97	36	1	8
Yellow Warbler	-	1	-	-
Yellow-rumped Warbler (form ?)	1100	528	-	455
(Audubon's)	219	642	12	76
(Myrtle)	3	10	-	35
Townsend's Warbler	29	109	-	16
Spotted Towhee	37	196	75	148

Species	SJ 12/15/13	PA 12/16/13	MtH 12/29/13	Cal-MH 12/28/13
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	-	-	1	26
California Towhee	248	322	96	274
Lark Sparrow	15	-	19	47
Bell's Sparrow	-	-	-	1
Sage Sparrow	-	-	4	-
Savannah Sparrow	470	122	107	270
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	-	1
Fox Sparrow	48	69	40	35
Fox Sparrow (Sooty)	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow (Slate Colored)	-	-	7	-
Fox Sparrow (form ?)	-	-	16	-
Song Sparrow	395	92	11	125
Lincoln's Sparrow	68	27	-	29
Swamp Sparrow	1	1	-	-
White-throated Sparrow	2	3	-	2
White-crowned Sparrow	2040	1070	751	1843
Golden-crowned Sparrow	809	1096	672	1270
sparrow sp	1	75	116	189
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	518	547	1068	768
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	-	1	-	-
Western Tanager	-	1	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	398	80	237	1181
Tricolored Blackbird	1	-	98	964
Western Meadowlark	491	272	144	438
Brewer's Blackbird	689	178	219	909
Great-tailed Grackle	8	-	-	13
Brown-headed Cowbird	45	26	-	179
blackbird sp	33	36	160	654
House Finch	880	666	23	604
Purple Finch	2	62	10	22
Pine Siskin	2	-	-	-
Lesser Goldfinch	155	292	112	197
Lawrence's Goldfinch	-	4	356	-
American Goldfinch	80	236	4	41
goldfinch sp	-	-	4	10
House Sparrow	102	58	20	48
Nutmeg Mannikin	-	-	-	CW

Total Species 171 161 109 146

Total number of individual birds 95,289 96,967 8,278 40,544

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 7.5 - December 2013.

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# 2013 Christmas Bird Count Summaries

Palo Alto CBC

by Al Eisner, Compiler

In contrast to the weather-impaired 2012 Palo Alto CBC, the 2013 count on December 16 was held in dry conditions, with warm afternoon temperatures, and little wind except on the high ridges. Yet the resulting species total of 161 was the same as last year's, again a bit below average. The number of participants was an impressive 119 (up from 98), although many parties spent only a few hours in the field, and a few promising areas received little or no coverage. Still, we found all but six of the "regular" species, missing Wood Duck (seen count week), Barrow's Goldeneye (which didn't show up this season until after the count), Ring-necked Pheasant (first time in over 45 years!), Whimbrel, Sanderling and Black Skimmer (second miss in 3 years). Among somewhat less regular species, the irruptive Pine Siskin, seemingly all over last year, was not to be found this year.



Lawrence's Goldfinch  
©Tom Grey

The most unexpected species found was Lawrence's Goldfinch: four seen by Kirsten Holmquist and Rich Page at Foothills Park. An intriguing Sapsucker was glimpsed by Chris O'Connell at Foothill College. He refound and photographed what was likely the same bird several weeks later -- it looks

close to a Red-naped, but our rare bird committee (aka Mike Rogers) has assigned it as a hybrid. Mike, in his bayside area, contributed three birds which have overall been at least as rare as the Goldfinch, but found more often recently: House Wren, Yellow Warbler and Swamp Sparrow. House Wren has been recorded five of the last ten counts; a second was reported by Juliette Bryson and Harold Fukuma at Gunn HS. Rounding out the less usual birds, a Lesser Yellowlegs was seen by John Meyer at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin, a Ruddy Turnstone by Mike Rogers at the San Francisquito Creek delta, three unidentified Swallows by Malia DeFelice over Montebello OSP, and a Western Tanager by Garth Harwood during a lunch stop in Los Altos.

In the "just barely" (single-individual) category were the Greater White-fronted Goose at Shoreline Park, the Golden Eagle near Felt Lake, the Barn Owl at Arastradero, a Northern Pygmy-Owl and a Pileated Woodpecker higher up, a Red-breasted Nuthatch in the Palo Alto or Los Altos area, and a Golden-crowned Kinglet near Skyline. At the other extreme were impressive totals of Ruddy Ducks, Semipalmated Plovers and peeps (see list), and a record high of 1208 Canada Geese. At least one more-welcome species, Oak Titmouse, also reached a significant new high.

Thanks as always to Jack Cole for organizing the count, and to all the regional coordinators and participants for a fine day. See you all again (I hope) next year!

San Jose CBC

by Kirsten Holmquist,  
Coordinator and Compiler

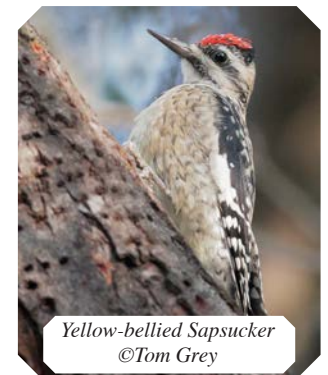
The San Jose count went forward this year under clear and warm conditions. We had a slightly above average year with 171 species recorded for the count. Many thanks to all the volunteers who contributed their time and energy to make this happen.

This year, only the small geese were represented beyond the usual suspects: Ross' Goose (1, Thompson Creek, Janna Pauser) and Cackling Goose (5, Upper Penitencia Creek Park, Ann Verdi, Rich Page; 1, Hall Memorial Park, Bob Power; 4, Lake Cunningham, Jim & Sue Liskovec, Phyllis Swanson). A couple unusual ducks were also sited: Eurasian Wigeon (1, Drawbridge area, Rob Furrow; 1, Pond A-14, Mike Rogers, Nateri Madaran) and Blue-Winged Teal (3, Mallard Slough, Bruce Barrett, Steve Tracey; 2, Sunnyvale Baylands Park, Steve Miller). Exceptional raptors included Ferruginous Hawk (1, Ed Levin County Park, Steve McHenry, Lisa Myers, Carolyn Straub, Brooke Miller, Kathleen Lee; 1, Marsh Road, Allen Royer) and Osprey (1, Lake Cunningham, Janna Pauser).

The stake-out Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker was found at Ed Levin by Lisa Myers. A completely unexpected but very welcome Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher was discovered by Bill Bousman and Jim Thomas on the west side of Coyote Creek, downstream from the CCFS trailer. A Nashville Warbler was the sole standout for the warblers and it was found by Janna Pauser and Brent Thordarson at Lake Cunningham. We once again found White-throated Spar-

rows: 1, east side of Coyote Creek, Bill Bousman and Jim Thomas; 1, Elm Picnic Area of Ed Levin County Park, Bob Power, Caryl Carr, and Steve McHenry. Rob Furrow, Howard Higley, and Sherry Sachindev managed to dig out a Swamp Sparrow along a slough west of Fremont Blvd. Great-tailed Grackles made an appearance at Lake Cunningham where Janna Pauser discovered 8 of them. Lastly, Tree Swallows were noted by many parties throughout the count circle but 2 Barn Swallows were also picked out by Bruce Barrett and Steve Tracey.

This year also marked the return of the American Dipper to our count. San Jose City's Alum Rock Park had been its last hold out within the San Jose count circle. The creek then became too overgrown with things like non-native trees and we missed the Dipper for several years. Some restoration work on the creek recently has had a positive effect though and the Dippers have returned. We didn't pick it up on the day of the count but a dedicated volunteer, Dorothy Johnson, went back a couple days after and found it during count week.



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
©Tom Grey

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## Count Summaries *cont'd*

Calero-Morgan Hill CBC

Ann Verdi

Coordinator and Compiler

This year's count was held on a mild sunny day which was nice for getting out and counting birds, but the current drought here (and in all of California) is not so nice, and effects were evident throughout this inland count circle as local reservoirs are at very low levels along with the creeks feeding into these reservoirs, seasonal creeks and ponds dried up, and hills and fields parched and dry.

Given this scenario, however, we did remarkably well with this year's count. We had a total of 146 species plus two count week birds which is a little higher than our average, and our total number of birds was over 40,000. We also added three new species on count day – a wayward Cattle Egret which showed up at the Coyote Creek Golf Course on Dec 27, and was seen here again on count day as well as at the Kirby Canyon Landfill – a Cassin's Kingbird found off Hellyer Ave at the base of the Diablo foothills – and a Bell's Sparrow seen near the Loma Prieta summit which is in a known location for this species.

**Waterfowl:** Although water levels were down at our local reservoirs, our duck numbers were comparable to our other counts; however, most Wood Ducks were found along densely wooded streams rather than gathered in reservoirs. In contrast we had a high number of over 400 Common Mergansers with 310 alone counted at Chesbro Reservoir – apparently there was still enough water at the lower end for this high concentration of mergansers. Also, one Cackling Goose was seen with a flock of Canada Geese at Calero Reservoir.

**Raptors and Owls:** Coyote Valley is "raptor central" for this count with raptors coming in from both the Diablo Range and the Santa Cruz Mountains. A sampling of raptors seen here include White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, both accipiters, buteos (including Ferruginous Hawk), Golden Eagle, and falcons (American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, and Prairie Falcon). Other raptors noted elsewhere were two Osprey in two different sectors, and four Bald Eagles seen at Anderson Reservoir in Morgan Hill. Five owl species were tallied including three Burrowing Owls (two on



Coyote Ridge and one in Coyote Valley) and four Short-eared Owls seen in Coyote Valley.

**Shorebirds and Gulls:** With more mudflats exposed at our dwindling reservoirs, our shorebird count was up from last year with five species tallied including Black-necked Stilt, Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Long-billed Curlew (seen in Coyote Valley), and Wilson's Snipe. Gull numbers were up considerably with most counted at the Kirby Canyon Landfill, and high numbers here include over 5000 Herring Gulls, over 600 Thayer's Gulls, over 600 Glaucous-winged Gulls, plus two Glaucous Gulls.

**Land Birds:** For the most part land birds held their own in terms of numbers and species, but here are a few comments. We counted 93 Eurasian Collared-Doves which is down a bit from previous years with most concentrated in Coyote Valley; however, others were seen, usually in pairs, in other parts of the count circle where they had not been noted before. Loggerhead Shrike numbers were down to 8 this year after a high of 20 the previous year. Other land birds of interest include the following – two sapsucker hybrids seen in the South Almaden area, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Calero County Park, a Grasshopper Sparrow at Coyote Ridge, and a total of 13 Great-tailed Grackles seen near the Ogier Ponds area and Coyote Creek Golf Course. Count week birds included a N. (Yellow-shafted) Flicker and a House Wren. High numbers of note included 13 Golden-crowned Kinglets found by three parties, and an impressive 965 Tricolored Blackbirds found in Coyote Valley and the Diablo Range.

As always, I'm very grateful to the team leaders and to all who came out for this 2013 count. Your dedication and competence pulled it off again this year. Thank you! The next Calero-Morgan Hill CBC will be held on Saturday, Dec 27, 2014. Until then, good birding in 2014!

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Mt. Hamilton CBC

by Bob Hirt,

Coordinator and Compiler

We held our count on December 30, 2013, with fair weather for a change. Interestingly, the temperature at the top in the morning was a pleasant 54° F. This was a cruel trick since many of us descended down the East slope and ran into fog and some kind of temperature inversion. We couldn't believe the car's reading at 23° F until we stepped outside. Scrambling for wool hats and gloves we started the day. Most of the smaller ponds were frozen and the water birds went to better areas. At least we stayed dry and had no weather related access problems.

The result was a very good count. We broke our all-time species record coming in at a respectable 109! We tallied 8,278 individual birds for the day which is roughly average. As to individual species we had a return of the Big Year for Lawrence's Goldfinches with 356 tallied. This could represent a National High count for 2013.

We had 394 in 2011 and that was a National High. In 2012 they all but disappeared from our area. One other target is the Lewis' Woodpecker and we came in at 79 which is roughly our average although they move around in our count circle from year to year. This year nearly 80% of the birds were on a private ranch with the San Antonio road count being somewhat low. The chaparral birds were quiet, so our counts of Fox Sparrow, Wren-tits and Thrashers were at their lowest in the last eight years.

Thanks to our leaders again (Bill Bousman, Mike Rogers, Mike Mammoser, Kirsten Holmquist, Mike Azevedo, Rob Furrow, Charles Coston, Sarah Estrella, Calvin Lou, and especially, of course, Bob Power who has hiked the arduous Mule Trail for many years. Our deepest thanks to Elinor Gates for hosting a marvelous compilation feast again this year and helping count the birds at the top. We are concerned but hopeful that a solution can be found for funding the astronomy projects on Mount Hamilton. We are very supportive of their mission.

# 2014 Friends of SCVAS

*Gifts received between December 1st, 2013 and January 31st, 2014*

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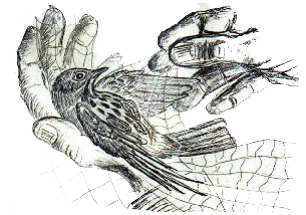
# Spring and Summer Adventures for Children

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!



## Conservation in Action: Bird Banding with SFBBO

Saturday, April 19th  
8:30am-10:30am



Join us at the peak of the spring migration for a special opportunity to witness live bird banding demonstrations by experts from the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO).

Location: Coyote Creek Field Station (near McCarthy Ranch), Milpitas

Cost: \$25/family (or \$8/child and \$10/adult)

**\*\* Children MUST be accompanied by a parent or guardian**



## Wingding Family Fest:



A celebration of Spring and All things Winged!

Saturday, May 10th  
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 and nature walks, geocache walks, arts-and-crafts, and some live bird guests!*



## Summer Nature Days



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



## Outdoor Day Camps for Grades 2-6

July 21st-July 25th  
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

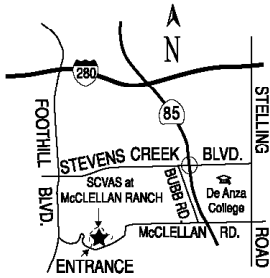
*Don't wait to register - Summer will be here sooner than you think!*

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

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

Phone: 408-252-3747  
 Fax: 408-252-2850  
 E-mail: [scvas@scvas.org](mailto:scvas@scvas.org)  
[www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org)

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Contact the SCVAS office at [scvas@scvas.org](mailto:scvas@scvas.org) to start your paper-free membership today!

**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, 2014.

Voice vote elections will be held during our Annual Meeting and potluck on June 18, 2014 at our office in McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino.

**OFFICERS**

<b>President</b> Ashok Khosla	<b>Treasurer</b> Peter LaTourrette
<b>Vice President</b> Bob Hirt	<b>Secretary</b> Joan Leighton

**DIRECTORS**

Diane Hart	'11-'14
Melanie O'Brien	'13-'16
Morteza Danesh	'14-'17
Peter Hart	'11-'14
Tom Grey	'12-'15
Vivek Khanzode	'11-'14

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

**STAFF**

<b>Executive Director</b>	408/252-3748
Stephanie Ellis	<a href="mailto:executivedirector@scvas.org">executivedirector@scvas.org</a>
<b>Office Manager</b>	408/252-3747
Susan Bell	<a href="mailto:scvas@scvas.org">scvas@scvas.org</a>
<b>Programs Coordinator</b>	408/252-3740
Toby Goldberg	<a href="mailto:programs@scvas.org">programs@scvas.org</a>
<b>Environmental Advocate</b>	650/868-2114
Shani Kleinhaus	<a href="mailto:shani@scvas.org">shani@scvas.org</a>

<b>Office Fax</b>	408/252-2850
<b>Office E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:scvas@scvas.org">scvas@scvas.org</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.scvas.org">www.scvas.org</a>

**OFFICE HOURS**

<b>Monday - Friday</b>	<b>10 AM - 5 PM</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10 AM - 2 PM</b>

**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**

**2014 Volume 61, Number 2**

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

<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
<input type="checkbox"/> \$250 White-tailed Kite	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Peregrine Falcon	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Golden Eagle	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**C1ZC140Z**

*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.*