



# THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

September-October 2015

## A Summer of Adventure for Bay Area Youth

by Toby Goldberg, Education and Outreach Director

Several years ago, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Board and Education Committee started a discussion about our “missing” educational demographics - we wanted to know who we were (and were not) serving with our programs. As we began to investigate the issue, we identified many robust programs for children ages 3-11, adults, and seniors, but very little to offer to students ages 12-18. This caused great concern for us as an organization, as we realized that this missing age group was our future pipeline for summer camp counselors, interns, new members, and even staff. It was clear that we needed to develop a new program that could capture their interest, enthusiasm and support. After much discussion, planning, some trial-and-error, and with support from corporations like Facebook, the RAILS Program for Teens was born.

Thanks in part to numerous discussions with professors at De Anza, San Jose State, and other institutions of higher education, the original idea for RAILS (which stands for **R**esearch, **A**dvocacy, **I**dentification, **L**eadership, and **S**tewardship) was to provide a training ground for students interested in the natural sciences, the environment, field biology, and conservation. Offered completely free of charge, we wanted the program to be both academically robust and scientifically current, and to provide the participants with experience and training that could help them find employment, and/or prepare them for future academic and career paths. Of course, we also wanted the program to be fun - something they would look back on with a smile, and



*RAILS participants learn about the Western Burrowing Owl from SCVAS' Burrowing Owl Project Manager, Josh McCluskey (at right)*

that would encourage them to continue learning and exploring.

This past summer (2015) was our pilot year for this new adventure. Four enthusiastic high school-aged students spent 8 weeks with us as we explored everything from how to keep a field journal to how to track mountain lions (answer: not easily...). Guest instructors from Acterra, Felidae Fund, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space

*(continued on page 6)*

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

Palo Alto - Middlefield & Montrose Rds

Doors open 7:30; program 8:00

Wednesday, September 16th

#### “Future of the World’s most Stunning Ecosystem: The Antarctic” with Ted Cheeseman

Antarctica boasts glorious wildlife and overwhelming landscapes, but it is facing extremely rapid change. Some of this change is very positive, but what will become of this environment with warming oceans and melting glaciers? Illustrated with engaging images taken during many Antarctic expeditions, Ted will share stories and questions about the future of the world’s harshest and most stunning ecosystem.



Left: Wandering Albatross Chick; Photo ©Ted Cheeseman. Right: Dan Lineman; Photo courtesy of the author  
(Additional information and directions available at [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org) or by calling 408-252-3747)

Wednesday, October 21st

#### “Severe Weather from Climate Change” with Dan Lineman

Worldwide, severe weather events have dramatically increased in frequency and in magnitude. The biggest impacts, and thus solutions, to Climate Change are still in our hands. Author Dan Lineman is working at grass roots level to bring about significant changes in public opinion to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. His highly engaging program on climate and its effects on habitats that sustain wildlife is a perfect sequel to the September program.



- 🦉 *Burrowing Owls Update* — Page 4
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- 🦉 *A WILD Tradition: The 24th Annual Wildlife Education Day* — Page 7
- 🦉 *Welcome to Our New Members!* — Page 7

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# Sept - Oct '15 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

## Wednesday Sept. 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. **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 Sept. 5, 8:15 AM

### Arastradero OSP

Half day. **Leader:** Rich Page (408) 377-1092. **Directions:** From I-280 take Page Mill Rd. west approx. 1/2 mile to Arastradero Rd. Turn right and meet at the parking lot located 1/2-mile on the right. **Highlights:** Woodland and grassland species as well as a good assortment of raptors are possible. **Difficulty Level:** Trip involves two plus miles of moderately strenuous walking. **RC**

## Sunday Sept. 6, 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**

## Wednesday Sept. 9, 8:30 AM

### Vasona Lake County Park

Half day **Leader:** Janna Pauser (408) 569-9264 **Directions:** From Hwy 17 exit at Lark Ave., go west to University Ave. Turn left onto Blossom Hill Rd. and use main entrance. Turn into first parking lot on your left after kiosk. **Difficulty Level:** Easy walking. We'll bird the south end of this popular Los Gatos Park. **Notes:** Gate opens at 8am. There is a parking fee of \$6 (or use your SC county park pass). **RC**

## Saturday Sept. 12, 9:00 AM

### Point Reyes

Full day. **Leader:** Stephen Berlyant (415) 420-3680. Our annual trip to the west coast's most active vagrant trap where birds and the weather are always exciting and unpredictable! **Directions:** From Hwy 1 in Marin Co. take Sir Francis Drake Blvd. west approx. 14 miles and turn left to Drakes Beach. Meet in the parking area. **Notes:** Bring lunch, liquids, a full tank of gas, and be ready for fog, wind, sun and lots of difficult to ID birds. Trip goes rain or shine. Be prepared to carpool from Drakes Beach.

## Sunday Sept. 13, 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. Drive under the bridge and meet at the far end of the parking lot. **Notes:** Possible entrance fee. **Difficulty Level:** Trip is a moderately strenuous 3-4 mile walk. **LO, RC**

## Saturday Sept. 19, 9:00 AM

### Charleston Slough

Half day. **Leader:** Allen Royer (408) 288-7768. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 in Mtn View take San Antonio Rd. north to Terminal Way parking area. Meet at the entrance nearest San Antonio Rd. **Difficulty Level:** This trip recommended for beginning birders but all are encouraged to attend. Bring your spotting scope and a friend.

## Sunday Sept. 20, 8:30 AM

### Coyote Hills Regional Park

Half day. **Leader:** Frank Vanslager (650) 961-1505. **Directions:** Take Hwy 84 (Dumbarton Bridge) east to Newark. Exit right at Thornton, then go left on the overpass, as Thornton becomes Paseo Padre turn left at Patterson Ranch/Commerce Rd. into the park. Meet at far end of Quarry parking lot located on the left, 1/4 mile past park entrance. **Notes:** Entrance fee required. **LO, RC**

## Saturday Sept. 26, 7:30 AM

### Ulistac Natural Area

Half day. **Leader:** Steve Tracey (408) 966-3860. **Directions:** From Hwy 237 take Great America Pkwy South for about 0.8 miles, turn left on Tasman Dr. for about one mile, turn right on Lick Mill Blvd. and meet at the South entrance to the park on the left. **Highlights:** We will look for migrants and local breeding birds in diverse habitat that does not require an entrance fee. **RC**

## Sunday Sept. 27, 8:30 AM

### San Luis Reservoir SRA-San Luis Creek Area (O'Neill Forebay)

Half Day. **Leader:** Pete Dunten (650) 210-6764. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 take Hwy 152 east into Merced County; turn left into the park entrance below the dam, pay a \$10 per vehicle entry fee, proceed to the boat ramp, and then right to the last parking area. **Difficulty Level:** During an approximately three mile hike we will see what's on the water and what's dropped into the trees along the Forebay.

## Saturday Oct. 3, 9:00 AM

### Hawk Hill/Marin Headlands

Full day. **Leader:** Nick Yatsko (408) 891-3187. **Directions:** Going north on Hwy 101, after crossing the Golden Gate Bridge exit just past the Vista Point, cross under Hwy 101 and turn right just before entrance back onto Hwy 101 south. Drive up hill to the highest point and park. Meet at the parking area or at the Hawk watch on top of the hill (arrive/depart the Hill at any time). **Highlights:** Migrating raptors including the possibility of seeing a rare Broadwing Hawk. Weather conditions can be highly variable, dress in layers, bring lunch and liquids. **Note:** This will be our only field trip to the Hawk Hill/Marin Headlands this fall. Heavy fog in the headlands will likely cancel the trip.

## Sunday Oct. 4, 8:00 AM

### Oka Ponds

Half day. **Leader:** Frank Vanslager (650) 961-1505. **Directions:** From Hwy 17 in Los Gatos take Lark Ave exit west. Turn right on Oka Rd, left on Mozart Ave and an immediate right on Oka Lane. Meet at gate. **RC**

## **Field Trips** *continued*

**Wednesday Oct. 7, 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 Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Saturday Oct. 10, 8:00 AM**

### **Moss Landing & vicinity**

Half day. **Leader:** Todd Newberry, Santa Cruz Bird Club (831) 426-8741. **Directions:** Meet in Moss Landing next to the Sea Harvest Restaurant in the big parking lot and boat launch ramp just north of Hwy 1's Elkhorn Slough bridge. **Notes:** Weather conditions can be highly variable so dress in layers, bring lunch and liquids. **Highlights:** Shorebirds, waterfowl and other migrants.

**Sunday Oct. 11, 8:00 AM**

### **Ogier Ponds**

Half day. **Leader:** Jim Johnson (408) 996-3506. For directions see the write-up for Sept 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Wednesday Oct. 14, 8:30 AM**

### **Lake Cunningham Park**

Half day. **Leader:** Janna Pauser (408) 569-9264 **Directions:** From Hwy 101 in San Jose, exit Tully Rd. Go east on Tully to entrance, .3 miles past Capitol Expwy. Turn left into park and left again at kiosk. Park in the marina parking lot. **Note:** Possible entrance fee. **RC**

**Saturday Oct. 17, 7:30 AM**

### **Local Hot Spots**

Half day. **Leader:** Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. **Directions:** We'll meet at the Alviso Marina. From Hwy 237 in San Jose take Gold St. north to the end of the street, bear left on Elizabeth St. and then right on Hope St. to the Marina parking lot. **Highlights:** A chance to visit some of the local hot spots you hear about and, we hope, to see some "good" birds.

**Saturday Oct. 17, 8:00 AM**

### **Early Bird Shorebird Walk for Families at Charleston Slough**

2-hours only. Part of our annual Wildlife Education Day. RSVP required to programs@scvas.org or (408) 252-3740. More details on page 7.

## **SCVAS Events:**

### **Bay Area Bird Photographers Mtg**

**Wed. 9/2 & 10/7, 7:30-9PM**

**Lucy Evans Interp. Cntr, Palo Alto**

**Topic 9/2:** Annual "Bring Your Own Photos" program

**Topic 10/7:** "Birding Central Asia" with Mike Danzenbaker and Lee Hung

Go to [www.scvas.org/babp](http://www.scvas.org/babp) for details

### **Eve Case Bird Discussion Group**

**Tues. 9/8 & 10/13, 10:00AM**

**Meets at the home of Rosalind Roberts - 100 Kathy Ct., Los Gatos; (408) 395-6631**

**Topic 9/8:** Great Blue Heron

**Topic 10/13:** Puffins

### **Nature Journaling Club with John Muir Laws**

**Wed. 9/9 & 10/14; 3-4:30PM**

**Location TBC. Check the SCVAS**

*website after September 1st.*

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

### **Cavity Nesters Recovery Program (CNRP) End-of-Season Meeting**

**Wed. 9/9, 7-9PM**

**McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino**

All monitors are invited to attend. We'll discuss the 2015 breeding season, and take a look at this year's data. **Please remember to submit your data online before the 9th!** See details on page 6.

### **Wildlife Education Day**

**Sat. 10/17, 10AM-3PM**

**Blackberry Farm, Cupertino**

Live animals, arts-and-crafts, and more!

A fun event for the whole family!

See page 7 - or online at [www.scvas.org/WildlifeFestival](http://www.scvas.org/WildlifeFestival) - for details

**Sunday Oct. 18, 8:00 AM**

### **Sunnyvale Water Treatment Facility**

Half day. **Leader:** Frank Vanslager (650) 961-1505. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 take Hwy 237 east, exit North on Caribbean Dr., turn right on Borregas Ave. then left to the parking area. **Highlights:** A great place to study ducks and scopes are highly recommended. **Difficulty Level:** Trip is a fairly easy but can be a long walk. **RC**

**Saturday Oct. 24, 9:00 AM**

### **Charleston Slough**

Half day. **Leader:** Allen Royer (408) 288-7768. For directions see the write-up for Sept 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Sunday Oct. 25, 8:00 AM**

### **Windyl Hills 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 entrance to The Sequoias. **RC**

**Saturday Oct. 31, 8:00 AM**

### **Moss Landing & vicinity**

Half day. **Leader:** Norm Kikuchi (831) 459-9424. **Directions:** Meet in Moss Landing next to the Sea Harvest Restaurant in the big parking lot and boat launch ramp just north of Hwy 1's Elkhorn Slough bridge. **Notes:** Weather conditions can be highly variable so dress in layers, bring lunch and liquids. **Highlights:** Shorebirds, waterfowl and other migrants.

**Sunday Nov. 1, 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 possible Golden Eagle. **Notes:** A Park entrance fee will be required for the last half of the trip. **Difficulty Level:** This will be a moderate 2 mile walk. **Important:** fall back or be an hour early for this trip. **LO, RC**



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# Burrowing Owl Updates

by Josh McCluskey, *Burrowing Owl Project Manager*

Over the last 20 years the western Burrowing Owl has been disappearing from our local landscape. The once-common sight and sound, frequently eliciting amusement at its rambunctious behavior, often eludes the new generation of birders in Silicon Valley. Many Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society members have worked hard for over a decade to preserve open space habitat for this species. When it seemed like the struggle might be lost, the City of San Jose partnered with SCVAS to manage the last large unpaved property in North San Jose, giving us a chance to apply conservation science on the buffer lands of the Regional Wastewater Facility (RWF).

For the last 18 months a grant from the City of San Jose has allowed me the privilege to work for SCVAS and follow in the footsteps of its passionate members. With the help of biologist Phil Higgins and many SCVAS volunteers, we've achieved some wonderful results on this 200 acre site. Our hard work is beginning to pay off as the Burrowing Owl population at the RWF has been steadily increasing over the past 2 years. Last year 6 pairs of burrowing owls produced 27 chicks, and this year 10 pairs produced 43. One pair successfully fledged 8 chicks this year as well, a rare occurrence in the Bay Area.

The great achievements we have accomplished should be celebrated as a bright spot in Burrowing Owl conservation ef-

forts. But as development pressures and habitat loss within the county continue to increase, and overall populations continue to decrease, preventing the local extinction of this unique animal will take more of our efforts and support. For example, one of the only remaining suitable habitats outside of North San Jose is in the South County (Coyote Valley to the Pajaro River), where a few wintering Burrowing Owls can be found. This area is under increasing pressure from local development agencies to build new homes for county residents. So the work of protecting suitable and historic habitat must continue.

Together we have proven that challenges can be overcome and that it's still possible for the Burrowing Owl to once again be a common sight, and entertain future generations.



*A successful Burrowing Owl family at the Regional Wastewater Facility  
Photo courtesy of the Environmental Services, City of San Jose*

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## Volunteer Ventures

Looking for ways to support and get involved with Audubon? The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society has plenty of ways to help out!

**Nature Shop Assistants** - If you like keeping things organized, working on the computer, or helping out in a low-key retail environment, then the SCVAS Nature Shop is looking for you! We need a few more volunteers to help us out during the week and keep things running smoothly. A regular schedule is preferred, but we'll work with your availability.

**Wetlands Discovery Program Docents** - One of our most visible, vital and volunteer-intensive activities, but one that is so worth it! This program shares the wonder and importance of wetland habitats with 3rd-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 is rewarding both for our volunteers and for the hundreds of South Bay children who participate (almost 1500 this past year!). ***No experience is necessary*** (though familiarity with local birds is definitely a plus), as we will provide training for both field and class sessions. All a potential docent needs is a love of nature and a desire to share it with children.

**Community Outreach Volunteers** - Each year, especially in the Spring and Fall, SCVAS is invited to participate in numerous community festivals and fairs. These fun events are a great chance for us to recruit new members, let people know about *our* upcoming events, and just share what it is we love about Audubon with those around us. Interested volunteers should be comfortable talking to people in an informal setting about SCVAS' programs.

**Wildlife Education Day Support** - As our largest annual event, Wildlife Education Day has an abundance of opportunities to help out. With wonderful interactive booths, environmental organizations, educational presentations, live animals, an art contest, and much more, this fun-filled affair will require a lot of volunteer support weeks before the event as well as on the big day - Saturday, October 17 (see page 7 - or [www.scvas.org/WildlifeFestival](http://www.scvas.org/WildlifeFestival) - for more details). Here's how YOU can help:

- |                                    |   |                         |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| <b>Prior to the Event:</b>         | <b>Day of the Event:</b>                  |                         |
| • Publicity                        | • Set Up                                  | • Nest Box              |
| • Mailing Support/<br>Handout Prep | • Registration                            | • Building Station      |
|                                    | • Nature Arts &<br>Crafts                 | • Event<br>Photographer |
|                                    | • High School<br>Volunteer<br>Coordinator | • Parking               |
|                                    |   | • Clean Up              |
|                                    |   | • And so much<br>more!  |

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## SCVAS Classes - Early Fall 2015

The SCVAS Staff and Board are always dreaming up, planning, and coordinating educational adventures that we think will captivate the birder in anyone. We hope that you'll join us for one (or more) of these classes! Additional information is also available online at [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org) - click on "Calendar." Call the SCVAS office at 408-252-3747 to register.

### Beginning Bird Watching with Larry Spivak

This course is for anyone interested in birds but feels like they lack basic bird identification skills. We'll start by studying birds in backyard settings, at local parks and in local nature preserves to learn how to identify them based on body type, size, color, identification clues, habitat and behavior. We'll learn a systematic approach to gathering information about a bird you have seen that will help you find it later in a field guide. Topics will include choosing and using binoculars, using field guides, identifying bird groups, identification clues, body part identification, habitats, behavior and field marks. We will also discuss reference materials, books, magazines, other local organizations and internet sites to help you more fully enjoy our local avian population.



Anna's Hummingbird  
Photo courtesy of Tom Grey

Class Dates: Thur, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8; 7:00-9:00 PM. Class Location: McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino.

Field Trip Dates: Sun 9/20, 9/27, 10/4; 8:00-11:00 AM. Field Trip Locations: Local Birding hotspots (exact locations TBA)

Fee: \$65/SCVAS members, \$85/non-members. **Class Size: minimum 8 maximum 12.**

#### About Larry Spivak:

Larry has always been interested in wildlife, including birds, and began his birding life list in December 1994 with a Great Egret. He has been an avid birder ever since, and will probably have a story to tell for every bird he has seen. He has taught birding classes with the Palo Alto Adult Education program and with SCVAS. Larry is a member of the Environmental Volunteers of Palo Alto and has been teaching elementary school children about birds, animals, water, plants and various other topics for nearly five years. He is an avid supporter of Audubon and has belonged to SCVAS for about 15 years.

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### Fall Raptors with Andy Bradshaw

Each fall the Bay Area experiences an impressive influx of raptors. Some make brief stops on their long migration to wintering grounds well South of California. Others take advantage of the mild weather and stick around for the winter. Thus, the fall is a great time to observe and learn more about our local raptor species.

This course will focus on raptor identification, aging and behavior. All experience levels are welcome. This will be a great opportunity to learn or improve your raptor ID skills and gain greater insight into the world of raptors.

Evening Classes: Tues, 9/15, 9/22; 7:30-9:00PM. Class Location: McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino.

Field Trips (various locations):

Sat, 9/19 -- 10:00AM-12:00PM; Arastradero OSP.

Sat, 9/26 -- 10:00AM-2:00PM; GGRO Hawk Hill/Marin.

Sat, 10/3 -- 10:00AM-12:00PM; Coyote Valley.

Fee: \$65/SCVAS members, \$75/non-members. 50% discount for students.

**Class Size: minimum 8 maximum 12.**

#### About Andy Bradshaw:

Andy's interest in raptors began as a cub scout patrolling the Palo Alto Baylands for "Marsh Hawks". As a Bay Area native, he has become very knowledgeable and experienced with the raptor species found here. Andy has experience working for the Belize Raptor Research Institute and volunteering as a raptor bander with the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (GGRO). His passion for raptors continues to push him, as he will be starting graduate school this fall focusing his research on raptor ecology and conservation.



Andy banding a Juvenile Red-tailed Hawk  
with GGRO in Marin.  
Photo courtesy Matt Delgado.

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# Summer Adventures

*cont'd from page 1*

District and De Anza College helped the students learn about our native flora and fauna, data collection techniques, habitat restoration, watershed science, wildlife corridors, environmental advocacy, and so much more. Our RAILS participants also served as the Junior Counselors for this year's Summer Nature Adventures Day Camp, gaining valuable skills as leaders and acting as guides for children ages 6-11.

As we had hoped, the participants' fluency with scientific and environmental terminology increased, as did their understanding of the connectivity among the various concepts they were learning. These skills were fairly easy to measure as we reviewed their journals throughout the program. However, what was harder to quantify, but perhaps more rewarding for us as

an organization, was that their confidence increased, and their abilities to ask questions was greatly enhanced. Each time we discussed a topic related to environmental education, research or conservation, it was immensely gratifying to see the interest that was sparked, and to hear all the "what if...?" and "could we...?" questions that then ensued. One of our favorite comments came from a soon-to-be high school sophomore, who said "it was much better than a traditional classroom education." She is now interested in pursuing environmental science in college.

As these participants shared what they learned with their families, one comment that was repeated by parents throughout the program was "I wish there had been something like this when I was in high school!" A sentiment we share, and one that we think sums up why we worked so hard to get this program running. With thanks to all of our many supporters, helpers, and advisors, we're already thinking about next year, eager to share this experience with another cohort of bright young minds.

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## Changes to SCVAS Staff:

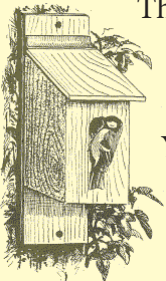


After two years, the time has come to say "Farewell" to our Programs Assistant, Andrew Bradshaw. During his tenure with us, Andy helped out in the Nature Shop, acted as the Staff Liaison with the Birdathon Committee, and provided quality educational programs for students and community members throughout the county. Andy is getting ready to begin a new chapter in his life as a graduate student at San Francisco State University, and while we will miss seeing him around the office, we know that true birders never go away. We wish him the best of luck, and look forward to his transition to an instructor for us through our Adult Education Program.

Ameliorating the sadness of saying "Goodbye" to Andy is our excitement at saying "Welcome" to our new Educational Programs Coordinator, Kymberly Sugano. Structural changes in the SCVAS staff allowed us to hire a new staff member to focus specifically on our school-based programs, and Kymberly was a perfect fit. As an intern for us over the last year, Kymberly has proven herself a tremendous asset in our education department, and we're looking forward to working with her on a more permanent basis. Welcome aboard Kymberly!



## Calling All CNRP Monitors:



The end of the breeding season is upon us, so don't forget to **submit your data!** Our end-of-the-season meeting, on Sept 9th at 7PM (see calendar for details), depends on having information to share, so please don't procrastinate!

Your data is one of the main reasons for this program - this information helps us to plan future conservation programs, and make decisions about the Cavity Nesters Recovery program as a whole. Please help us continue this valuable conservation and research tool by submitting your data soon!



The online database is the preferred method for receiving year-end data – go to [www.cbrp.org](http://www.cbrp.org)  
OR go to the SCVAS website ([www.scvas.org/cnrp](http://www.scvas.org/cnrp)).

Contact Toby, the SCVAS Education and Outreach Director, at [programs@scvas.org](mailto:programs@scvas.org) with any questions.



Sorry -  
dogs are not  
allowed

HEAVY  
RAIN Cancels

SCVAS presents the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Wildlife Education Day

Saturday, October 17, 2015  
10:00am - 3:00pm

**FREE!**  
ALL Ages welcome!

Nature Arts  
and Crafts!

Birdhouse Building!

Live Animals - Birds of  
Prey, Snakes, Insects,  
Big Cats, and more!

For details visit [www.scvas.org/WildlifeFestival](http://www.scvas.org/WildlifeFestival)

Blackberry Farm, Cupertino



"Early Bird"  
Shorebird Walk

8:00 am @ Charleston Slough  
RSVP Required (for walk only)

2014 Logo Art  
by Sierra Glassman,  
4th grade

**Calling All Kids!**  
Participate in this year's Wildlife Art Contest and create the logo for  
the 2015 event! Details online. Submissions due Sept 8th.

## 2015 New Members of SCVAS

Those who joined between June 1st and July 31st, 2015  
Welcome Aboard!

We look forward to a great year with your support!

- |                                       |                                    |                                |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Marzieh Bazrafshan<br>& Curtis Menton | Philip Gallagher<br>Laurel Garceau | Taylor Phillips<br>Yaixin Song |
| James Calhoun                         | Kate Goldrick                      | Nancy Stuhr                    |
| Matthew Carney &<br>Sarah Smith       | Arushi Goyal<br>Garrett Lau        | Lars Teppo<br>Pauline Tierney  |
| Phyllis A Castrovinci                 | Magda MacMillan                    | Janet Underwood                |
| Fang-Mei Chen                         | Patricia Mahoney                   | Richard Wakefield              |
| Corinne Collins                       | Ritesh Nayak Man-<br>galore        | Mas & Eleanor<br>Watanabe      |
| Susanna Confer                        | Linda Miller                       | Michael Yessik                 |
| Ian Cookson                           | Joyith Neerkaje                    |                                |
| David Diller                          | Katherine Noether                  |                                |
| Sharon Forsyth                        |                                    |                                |

## Field Notes (June-July 2015)



McGillivray's Warbler  
Photo courtesy Tom Grey

A rare breeding McGillivray's Warbler was one of the highlights of the summer.

From Northern Pintails to Lawrence's Goldfinches, the normally quiet season was still full of avian treats.

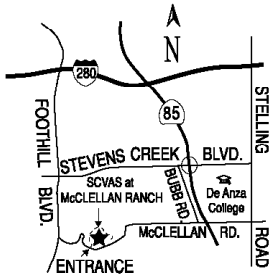
Full Field Notes lists are available online - go to [www.scvas.org/pdf/fieldnotes/FieldNotes\\_2015\\_0607.pdf](http://www.scvas.org/pdf/fieldnotes/FieldNotes_2015_0607.pdf)

Please send notice of rarities to: Pete Dunten, pdunten@gmail.com

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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.

### OFFICE HOURS

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**Avocet Editor:** Toby Goldberg

## 2015 Volume 62, Number 5

**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
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**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).

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