



THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

January-February 2016

Golden Eagle Deaths at the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area: Can the Population Recover?

by Gail Cheeseman, SCVAS General Meeting Coordinator

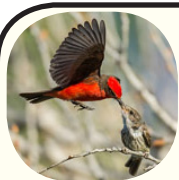
SCVAS monthly talk in February (Wednesday, February 17th at Cubberley Community Center) is scheduled to host Doug Bell, Wildlife Program Manager for East Bay Regional Parks District, with a presentation titled, "Golden Eagles and the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area: Using Raptor Flight Behavior as a Tool for Careful Repowering of a Wind Farm." This important topic is an issue that the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society has worked on with other organizations for many years, and is something we care deeply about. Here's why:

Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area: Altamont Pass is a very windy location! Starting in Spring and through the Summer months, cool marine air from the Bay Area flows into the hotter Central Valley. This air current makes the Altamont an outstanding energy resource. It also is the source of the Altamont tragedy: raptors and other birds soar with the winds, and collide with the turbines. Tens of thousands of birds, including thousands of raptors, have been killed at Altamont Pass.

Litigation and Settlement: In 2005, SCVAS and several other local Audubon groups sued Alameda County and three wind power companies (Nextera, Altamont Winds and EDF Renewable Energy) over the carnage at Altamont Pass. Two years later, we reached a settlement that promised to cut bird mortality by half by 2009. The wind companies promised to remove turbines that biologists determine to be the most dangerous to birds, and to shut down the turbines during winter, when electricity generation demand are lowest and bird activity is highest. A scientific Advisory Committee was to direct a monitoring effort and evaluate the outcomes, focusing on four 'indicator species': Golden Eagle, Burrowing Owl, American Kestrel, and Red-tailed Hawk. *cont'd on page 6*



Juvenile Golden Eagle
Photo courtesy of Tom Grey



General Membership Meetings
Cubberley Community Center, Rm H1
Palo Alto - Middlefield & Montrose Rds
Doors open 7:30; program 8:00



Wednesday, January 20th

"A Photo Tour of Wildlife Behavior in the American West"
with Brent Paull

Discover the fascinating world of wildlife behavior, including a few surprising moments in avian life. Photographer Brent Paull has spent many hours tracking and investigating Bobcats and Kit Foxes trying to answer questions such as: How do they catch their prey? How do they have fun in life? Brent will share a wide variety of wildlife behaviors, including courtship and mating from the commonplace to the unexpected, all photographed in the American West.

Left: Vermilion Flycatcher; Right: Bobcat. Photos ©Brent Paull

Wednesday, February 17th

"How Can Golden Eagles Survive in the Altamont Pass?"
with Doug Bell

See topic details above

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

Field Notes

(October-November 2015)

**Fall Migration Delivers Two County
Firsts: a Snow Bunting and a Pine
Warbler!**



Pine Warbler
Photo courtesy Peter LaTourrette

Full Field Notes lists are available online:
go to www.scvas.org/fieldnotes

Please send notice of rarities to
Pete Dunten via email at
pdunten@gmail.com

Jan-Feb '16 Field Trips

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

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

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

Saturday Jan. 2, 7:30 AM

County Chase

Half day. **Leader:** Bob Reiling, (408) 253-7527. **Directions:** From Hwy 237 in San Jose take Gold St. north to the end, bear left on Elizabeth St. and then right on Hope St. Meet outside the entrance to the Alviso Marina Parking Lot. **Highlights:** Get a head start on your County Year List with some vagrant chasing as we attempt to track down some of the unusual birds seen on the Christmas Bird Counts in Santa Clara County. **Notes:** Bring a full tank of gas, lunch, and field guides. Be prepared to car pool as parking may be limited at some sites. **RC**

Sunday Jan. 3, 8:00 AM

Los Capitancillos Ponds

Half day. **Leader:** Rich Page, (408) 377-1092. **Directions:** If coming from Hwy 85, go south on Camden Ave. just past Blossom Hill Rd. Singletree Way is the next left turn-off near Beacon School. Park on the street, we will meet at the trail entrance located on the right just beyond the power plant. **Highlights:** We will bird ponds that are often filled with a wide variety of waterfowl and Gulls, a nearby creek for riparian birds as well as other areas closely associated with the ponds that attract birds. **Notes:** Lack of water may require relocation to an alternate site. **RC**

Wednesday Jan. 6, 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, for directions or more details (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. **RC**

Saturday Jan. 9, 8:00 AM

Panoche Valley

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

Highlights: This is one of our better "out of the county" field trips traversing oak woodland and open grassland via back roads into a unique habitat. Targeted species include Phainopepla, Mountain Bluebird, Prairie Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk and Golden Eagle; other possibilities include Mountain Plover, Lark, Vesper and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Greater Roadrunner and Chukar. **Notes:** Bring lunch* and a full tank of gas; carpooling is strongly recommended due to limited parking on the narrow roads. *Lunch: We'll have lunch at the Panoche Inn. Birder's who would like to pre-order a sandwich (recommended) should e-mail their choice of meat (turkey, ham, pastrami, chicken salad), cheese, and bread to the leader at ltjaeger@att.net. **Important:** Do not expect to use the restrooms at the Paicines Store as their use is limited to paying customers (we encourage patronage of local business).

Sunday Jan. 10, 9:00 AM

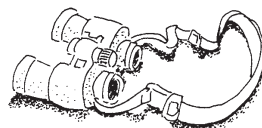
Alum Rock Park

Half day. **Leader:** Jim Johnson, (408) 996-3506. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 or I-680 take McKee Rd. northeast toward the hills then left on Toyon Ave., right on Penitencia Creek Rd. and continue on into the park. Pass under the bridge and meet at the far end of the upper parking lot. **Difficulty Level:** This is a moderately strenuous 3-4 mile walk. **Highlights:** Resident breeding birds (possible Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, and Canyon Wren if we are lucky) early migrants, and lingering winter birds. **Notes:** Be prepared for some mud! Expect to pay an entrance fee. **LO, RC**

Wednesday Jan. 13, 1:00 PM

Coyote Valley

Note: This is a three-hour afternoon trip. **Leader:** Dennis Porter, (408) 205-0535. **Directions:** Take Hwy 101 south, exit right (west) onto Bailey Rd. Turn left on Hale/Santa Teresa Blvd. In .8 miles turn right on west Laguna Ave. and park. **Highlights:** Raptors. **RC**



Saturday Jan. 16, 8:00 AM

Charleston Slough

Short 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. **Notes:** Bring your spotting scope and a friend. **RC**

Sunday Jan. 17, 8:00 AM

Coyote Point and Foster City, San Mateo County Bayside

Half day. **Leader:** Al Eisner (days and voicemail: (650) 926-2018). **Directions:** Meet at the parking lot adjacent to the yacht club at Coyote Point. From 101 northbound, exit at Peninsula Ave. Turn right immediately at the "T", then left at the next "T" (traffic lights are at both), which is Peninsula Ave., and into the park. Enter through the kiosks (likely admission charge), continue along golf course fence and beyond to end of road. We will later car-caravan to locations in Foster City. **Highlights:** This trip should be good for shorebirds (including "rockbirds") and waterfowl (Harlequin Duck is possible) but we'll also look for landbirds. **Notes:** Scopes will be very useful. **RC**

Saturday Jan. 23, 8:00 AM

Ogier Ponds

Half day. **Leader:** Kirsten Holmquist, (408) 747-0988. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 in Morgan Hill take Cochrane Rd. west to Monterey Hwy, turn right, go north 2.6 miles, turn right towards the Model Airplane Park (street is unnamed). Follow the road for 1/4 mile and park in the gravel lot at the first bend in the road (meet at the gate if the entrance is locked). **RC**

Sunday Jan. 24, 9:00 AM

San Francisco's Southern Parks

Half Day. **Leader:** Alan Hopkins, home phone (415) 664-0983, cell (415) 794-0281. **Directions:** Meet at the parking lot to Heron's Head Park. From Hwy 280 or 101 take the Cesar Chavez St. exit east to Third St. Turn right onto Third St. after crossing the bridge turn left onto Cargo Way. Cargo Way ends at the Heron's Head Park parking lot. **Highlights:** This newly created park is a great place to look for shorebirds and bay waterfowl. Later we will then visit San Francisco's second largest

Field Trips *continued*

park, McLaren Park, for land birds and a few dabbling ducks. **RC**

Saturday Jan. 30, 8:30 AM

Coyote Reservoir

Half day. **Leader:** Bob Reiling, (408) 253-7527. From Hwy 101 in Gilroy take Leavesley Rd. east for 1.5 miles, turn left on New Ave. then right on Roop Rd. Go left at the "T" intersection, then after 1.3 miles left again on Coyote Reservoir Rd. and on to the Lakeview Picnic area on the right. **LO, RC**

Sunday Jan. 31, 8:00 AM

Ulistac Natural Area

Half day. **Leader:** William Pelletier, (408) 623-4686. **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**

Wednesday Feb. 3, 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, for directions or more details (408) 730-7545 with questions. See write-up for Jan 6th for details. **RC**

Saturday Feb. 6, 8:00 AM

Charleston Slough

Short half day. **Leader:** Nick Yatsko, (408) 891-3187. For directions, see write-up for Jan 16th above. **RC**

Sunday Feb. 7, 8:30 AM

Merced & San Luis Wildlife Refuges

Full day. **Leader:** Rich Page, (408) 377-1092. **Directions:** Meet at the parking area near the first Observation Platform in Merced National Wildlife Refuge. From Hwy 101 in Gilroy take Hwy 152 east thru Los Banos (no services past Los Banos, so check your gas gauge), approx. 20 miles then north 7 miles on Rte. 59 to Sandy Mush Rd., turn left approx. 8 miles to Merced Wildlife Refuge, on the left. Allow 2.5 hrs driving time from San Jose, more if it's foggy. **Highlights:** Raptors, ducks, geese, Great Horned Owls, Sandhill Cranes and White-faced Ibis possible. **Notes:** This

will primarily be a driving bird trip so FRS radios (Walkie-Talkies) set to channel 11 will prove to be of value. After the Merced Wildlife Refuge we will caravan to the San Luis Wildlife Refuge for lunch and more birding. Dress in layers; bring lunch, liquids, and a full tank of gas. **RC**

Wednesday Feb. 10, 9:00 AM

Los Capitancillos Ponds

Leaders: Pat Brennan and Phyllis Swanson, (408) 274-2349. **Directions:** If coming from Hwy 85, go south on Camden Ave. just past Blossom Hill Rd. Turn left onto Singletree Way at Beacon School. Meet at the trail entrance on the right just past the PG&E sub station. **Highlights:** We will bird ponds with a variety of gulls and waterfowl 1 mile to Meridian and back along Guadalupe creek. **RC**

Saturday Feb. 13, 8:00 AM

Oka Ponds

Half Day. **Leader:** Jim Johnson, (408) 996--3506. **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 the gate at the end of the lane. **RC**

Sunday Feb. 14, 8:00 AM

Stanford Campus

Half day. **Leader:** Sophia Christel, (650) 796 1471. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 in Palo Alto take University Ave. exit west through downtown and onto Stanford campus (University Ave. becomes Palm Dr. on the campus). Meet at the end of Palm Dr. at entrance to the Main Quad. **Highlights:** The campus provides a bird friendly habitat. **Difficulty Level:** This trip is highly recommended for beginning birders.

Saturday Feb. 20, 8:30 AM

Coyote Hills Regional Park

Half day. **Leader:** Frank Vanslager, (650) 961-1505. **Directions:** Take Hwy 84, Dumbarton Bridge, east towards Newark. Exit right on Thornton, then left over freeway, as Thornton becomes Paseo Padre. Turn left at Patterson Ranch/Commerce Rd. into park. Meet at far end of Quarry Parking lot ¼ mile past park entrance. **Notes:** An entrance fee should be expected. **LO, RC**

Sunday Feb. 21, 7:30 AM

Santa Cruz Coastal Hot Spots

Half Day (optional plus). **Leader:** Stephen Berlyant, (415) 420-3680. **Directions:**

Meet 7:30 AM at the Santa Cruz lighthouse on W. Cliff Dr. From Hwy 17 take Hwy 1 "north" (toward Half Moon Bay), turn left on Bay St. (just after McDonald's), go to its end, turn right onto W. Cliff Dr., follow bluff-top to lighthouse. **Highlights:** A chance to visit local birding hotspots and to chase recently reported goodies. **Notes:** Dress in layers, trip goes rain or shine. For those running late, at 8 AM we will be on W. Cliff Dr., checking inter-tidal shelves as we approach the Natural Bridges overlook at the west end of W. Cliff Dr.

Saturday Feb. 27, 8:00 AM

Ogier Ponds

Half day. **Leader:** Bob Reiling, (408) 253-7527. For directions see the write-up for Jan. 23rd. **RC**

Sunday Feb. 28, 8:30 AM

Coyote Valley OSP

Half day. **Leader:** Rick Herder, (408) 779-3985. **Directions:** From 101 in San Jose take Bailey Ave. West, turn left on Hale Ave. (Santa Teresa), then right on Palm Ave. and park in the lot at the end of the street (in the preserve beyond the barrier). **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. **Notes:** Cattle graze in the preserve, the trail can be rough and decorated with "cow pies." Trip limited to those over 12 years of age. Early risers will meet at 7:30 AM on the western portion of Laguna Ave in Morgan Hill, the first right after turning onto Hale Ave. **RC**

Saturday Mar. 5, 8:00 AM

Windy Hill OSP

Half day. **Leader:** Kirsten Holmquist, (408) 747-0988. **Directions:** 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. Meet in the parking lot at Sausal Pond edge of the preserve. **RC**

Sunday Mar. 6, 9:00 AM

Charleston Slough

Half day. **Leader:** Allen Royer, (408) 288-7768. For directions see write-up for Jan. 16th above. **RC**

2015 New Members of SCVAS

*Those who joined October 1st-November 30th, 2015.
We look forward to a great year with your support!*

Joanne Barnes
Danielle Blakkan
Jerry Coe
Leni Hazlett
Sarah Hitchcock-Glover
Denise Marx
Coralie Mueller
Haixia Qiao
Rajesh Ramani
Nancy Ruhle
Sherry Symington
Kathleen Whalen



YOU are invited: join today!



*New in The Nature Shop:
SCVAS Logo gear - like
this hooded jacket - is
now available. Come in
and check it out!*

The SCVAS Staff would like to thank all of our members, friends, and neighbors who support our Nature Shop. We hope to see you again soon!

Education Excursions

by Toby Goldberg

SCVAS Education and Outreach Director

2015 was a busy year for us in the Education Department. We wrapped up the 3rd year of our full-week Summer Nature Adventures Day Camp, and piloted the first year of our RAILS Program for Teens. Both programs allowed us to explore the wonders of nature with children of all ages. As we look forward to 2016, we're excited to introduce new programs, expand and revamp existing programs, and bring back some old favorites from previous years. What this means, however, is that the format of Young Audubon activities is going to look a little different this year. Here are some highlights and changes we think you should know about:

After-school Programs: We're going to be working with partners and fellow educators to develop a robust after-school program for children in grades 3-8. Look for more details this spring!

Wingding Family Fest: For the last 4 years, we've partnered with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to present a unique bird-themed

festival at Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve. We expect 2016 to be bigger and better!

Monthly Family Outings: The Young Audubon Program is designed to bring families and children out into nature on a regular basis, and allow us to explore some of the amazing open space preserves in our area. Look for expanded offerings for a wider age range this year. Details to be posted online soon.

RAILS Program for Teens: We'll be restructuring this fun, educational program to allow more participants to join with us, and to make it a little easier for families to schedule their summers. Stay tuned for more details!

Summer Young Audubon Adventures: We'll be taking a hiatus from our summer camp program to give us an opportunity to restructure and redesign some of the activities. Expect this to come back better than ever in 2017! For 2016, we'll be focusing instead on some fantastic outings and single-day activities to encourage exploration of the natural world.

Our Young Audubon Program calendar of events is online, and will be updated frequently. Check us out at www.scvas.org/KidsCalendar.

SCVAS Adult Education: Winter 2016

The following classes are sponsored by the SCVAS Education Committee. To register please call the main SCVAS office at (408) 252-3747. Cancellations require 72-hour prior notification for refunds. Information about our upcoming classes and field seminars is also available on our website at www.scvas.org.

Bird Poetry Workshop with Megan O'Brien



Birds are often a source of inspiration for many art forms - painting, photography, sculpture and even music. One such art form that is often overlooked, but that can lend itself to wonderful sweeps of creativity, is Poetry. If you love birds and the spoken word, or just want to liberate your birding imagination by giving it a voice, join us for this special one-night workshop to help you learn how to tap into your own wells of bird-themed inspiration.

The workshop will focus on the works of well known nature poets, such as Emily Dickinson, Marianne Moore, Julie Zickefoose, and more. Participants will explore how to use words to express feelings about birds, and will be invited to share their written endeavors with each other in a safe and friendly environment. All skill levels are welcome, and participants are encouraged to bring poems written previously to share with the group. Let your creativity take flight!

Date: Wednesday, March 23rd; 7:00-9:00PM
Location: McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino
Fee: \$10 SCVAS members; \$15 non-members

SCVAS Events Calendar:

General SCVAS Activities:

Wed. 1/6 & 2/3, 7:30-9PM

The Bay Area Bird Photographers Meeting - Lucy Evans Nature Center; E. Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto.

- Topic 1/6: "A Collection of Birds and Wildlife of Borneo" with John Richardson
- Topic 2/3: "South Texas Birds and Bird Photography" with David Cardinal

See www.scvas.org/babp for more details

Tues. 1/12 & 2/9; 10:00AM

Eve Case Bird Discussion Group - now meets at the home of Rosalind Roberts; 100 Kathy Ct., Los Gatos, 408 395 6631

- Topic 1/12: *Cormorants*
- Topic 2/9: *Cowbirds*

Wed. 1/13 & 2/10; 3-4:30PM

Nature Journaling Club with John Muir Laws

McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino

These workshops are free and open to all ages (mature children must be accompanied by an adult). No RSVP is required, but space does fill.

See www.johnmuirlaws.com for more.



Bird Sketch
© John Muir Laws

Sat. 2/20; 9AM-12PM

Cavity Nester Recovery Program Orientation and Training

McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino

See details on page 6

SCVAS Young Audubon Program:

(see page 7 for additional details).

Mon. 1/18; 8:30AM-1:00PM

Young Audubon "Day of Service" activity

Join us at McClellan Ranch Preserve to help restore some of the park's natural beauty.

Mon. 2/15; Morning (exact times TBD)

Young Audubon Elephant Seal Tours at Año Nuevo State Park

Join us for a truly unforgettable experience

Note: Information - and links to RSVP - are also available on our website - www.scvas.org (click on "Kids' Corner").

Golden Eagles at Altamont Pass

(continued from page 1)

Science and Recommendations: To better understand why so many raptors collide with wind turbines, biologists focused on the ecology and the behavior of each species – a fascinating area of study. They found that eagles and other raptors use the open hills landscape as camouflage as they fly low and hunt squirrels and other prey. Unfortunately, the wind sweeps them into turbines. Studies also revealed that the dozens of Golden Eagles killed every year is a greater loss than the local population can reproduce, resulting in a population deficit or “sink.”

A key recommendation by the Scientific Advisory Committee was to repower the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area, meaning removing the old generation turbines, and replacing them with fewer, larger turbines. Repowering would produce the same amount of energy, but existing turbines will be replaced at the rate of 30:1. In addition, scientists developed collision hazard maps to guide the placement of new turbines away from the most dangerous landscape features.

Repowering: Negotiations with the wind companies continued beyond the 2009 deadline for cutting collisions by half. With time, and with support from both wildlife agencies and the California Attorney General’s office, wind companies started to remove the old generation turbines, and used collision hazard maps to repower and replace the new turbines on the landscape.

One company - Altamont Winds Inc. (AWI) - has been reluctant to make the transition. According to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, 31 Golden Eagles were killed by AWI’s 828-turbine operation in the years since 2010, but the company persisted. In March 2015, despite strong opposition from SCVAS and other Audubon chapters, Alameda County permitted an ex-

ension to AWI’s current turbine use. A letter from the California Attorney General’s office, warning that a permit extension would “create serious inequalities for other turbine operators and will undercut current efforts to repower,” did not help.

The Last Frontier: With California Audubon, Golden Gate Audubon and other partners, SCVAS was ready to again litigate. Then, in October 2015, AWI announced plans to shut down its old generation turbines. Shortly after, the company applied to Alameda County for permission to repower and replace hundreds of old generation turbines with 33 new turbines. This should have been good news.

Unfortunately, AWI has not revealed the site-selection process for the new turbines. Since site selection is critical in reducing mortality, and since our long history with AWI has not been conducive to building trust, we asked Alameda County not to approve the repowering application until it is clear that the new turbines will be placed to reduce avian mortality. In January 2016, Alameda County is scheduled to consider approving AWI’s application for repowering. With other Audubon chapters, we are watching closely.

And a Story: Doug Bell, our speaker for our February General Meeting, says “only as we do the careful repowering can we hope to reduce the overall kill rates of Golden Eagles.” Because “not only should energy production be sustainable in terms of carbon off-sets; it should also be sustainable in terms of the wildlife and the local impacts.” We concur. Doug tells a fascinating story, and we hope you will join us in February to hear more about it.

Cavity Nesters Recovery Program (CNRP)

Get involved this spring - enjoy the beauty of nature, *and* help our local cavity nesting species!

Saturday, February 20th; 9:00am-12:00pm

Orientation and Info Meeting & Hands-on Training for Monitors

McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino

We’ll start the morning with a general information session for potential and/or new nest box monitors - or just-interested folks. This will provide some insight as to what’s going on with our local cavity nesting bird populations, and how you can help stop their decline.

After our introductory session, we’ll walk along the nest box trail at McClellan Ranch Preserve and learn how to open nest boxes for monitoring, how to identify the different species, and how to troubleshoot. We’ll also discuss the various options of how to get involved, including where there are existing nest box trails in need of new monitors.

For all new monitors interested in participating in the 2016 breeding season or any existing monitors who would like a refresher.

RSVP to 408-252-3740 or programs@scvas.org, or by using the online form at www.scvas.org/cnrp.

Note: You do not have to attend both components, but new monitors should attend the intro session.

Reminder for Current CNRP Monitors:

Don’t forget to prepare for the 2016 breeding season by cleaning out your boxes by the end of February



Young Audubon Winter Adventures for Families:

**Annual Day of Service
at McClellan Ranch Preserve**

**Monday, January 18th
8:30am-1:00pm**

Join SCVAS, Acterra, and the City of Cupertino for a day of restoration, exploration and research as we help to restore some of McClellan Ranch Preserve's natural beauty.

This activity is most appropriate for ages 8 and up, but children of all ages are welcome with parental guidance.

Elephant Seal Walks at Año Nuevo State Park

Monday, February 15th

Times still TBD (check the website for updates)



A chance to view the weird and wonderful
Elephant Seals at Año Nuevo State Park!



Space is limited, so be sure to sign-up early!

Ages: 7-years-old and up*

Cost: \$7/person for members; \$9/person for non-members

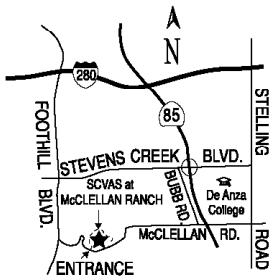
****Groups with children will be given first priority. Groups without children will be wait-listed.***

RSVP for either of these Young Audubon Programs online (www.scvas.org/KidsCalendar) or by calling 408-252-3740.

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- No waiting for the mail - get your newsletter up to 2 weeks sooner!

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

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Peter Hart '15-'18

Tom Grey '15-'18

Vivek Khanzode '14-'17

Gabrielle Feldmen '15-'17

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

GENERAL MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month except July, August and December and are open to the public.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

10 AM - 5 PM

Saturday

10 AM - 2 PM

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

Avocet Editor: Toby Goldberg
Avocet line-drawings: Bonnie Bedford-White

2016 Volume 63, Number 1

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

- \$25 Song Sparrow (Student) \$35 American Avocet (Individual) \$60 California Quail (Family) \$100 Burrowing Owl
- \$250 White-tailed Kite \$500 Peregrine Falcon \$1000 Golden Eagle Other _____
- Membership \$ _____ + Donation \$ _____ = Total Enclosed \$ _____

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).

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