



THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

January-February 2017

Education from Past to Present *By Kym Sugano, Education Specialist*

When I graduated from college in 2013 and moved back to San Jose, I quickly found SCVAS and started as a volunteer. I thought I would be a monitor for the Cavity Nester Recovery Program (CNRP) as it was similar to what I did for the UC Davis nest box-monitoring program. But Toby Goldberg set up an appointment for me to shadow the Wetlands Discovery Program and let's just say after three seasons as an Education and Outreach Intern and about a year as the Programs Coordinator, I am now sitting here as the full-time Education Specialist. The Education Department has gone through many changes, and I would like to take this time to reflect on how far we've come.



I have been researching my predecessors and what they thought about taking on the education programs. Overall they were:

"[...] thrilled to take on this new position, I wish I didn't have to say good-bye to a valuable co-worker and friend, Ulrike. Clearly, I have a large pair of shoes to fill" (Jennifer Peritz, May-June 2001).

"As all who have worked with her know, Jennifer left some enormous shoes to fill. While this might be slightly intimidating, I also know that I have a solid foundation from which to build" (Kim Yuan-Farrell, September-October 2004).

"As the 2006/2007 school year began, and the time of our first Wetlands Discovery Program drew near, I will admit to feeling a little apprehensive at the thought of plunging into (and coordinating) a program that has been running since 1989."

Anyone recognize the last quote? It came from Toby in the January-February 2007 *Avocet* issue. Ten years later, here's another coordinator having the same recollections.

Before I read these articles I was going to focus on Toby and likewise talk about how I have HUGE shoes to fill. However, I now realize that I follow a line of women who have created, nurtured, and fostered the education programs over the course of their time as coordinators. The feelings described above really sum it all up and they left quite

cont'd on page 4

Happy New Year!
2017 MONTHLY SPEAKER SERIES
 Cubberley Community Center, Rm H1
 Middlefield & Montrose Rds, Palo Alto
 Doors open 7:30 PM; program 8:00 PM

Wednesday, January 18, 2017
Technology in Birding with Bill Pelletier
 Bill Pelletier is a high tech entrepreneur and life-long teacher of math, nature, and the sciences. He will discuss the use of smart phone technologies and the latest techniques in birding by ear, by behavior, and through photography.



Wednesday, February 15, 2017
The Grebes of Clear Lake with Faith Rigolosi
 Faith Rigolosi is a photographer and co-owner of Eyes of the Wild Pontoon Boat Tours. She'll share photos and experiences from her time on Clear Lake, the largest breeding area of the Clark's and Western Grebes.



© Faith Rigolosi

January-February Field Trips

(Full details 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

Wednesday Jan. 4, 12:00 PM

City of Sunnyvale Landfill
One hour. **Leaders:** Freddy Howell and Allen Royer. No RSVP needed. Contact landfill coordinator Silviana Ruiz with any questions - (408) 730-7545. **Directions:** Donald M. Somers Water Pollution Control Plant, junction of Borregas and Caribbean. Meet at trailhead at north end. **Difficulty:** Birding for beginners. **Notes:** Bring binoculars; loaners available. **RC**

Saturday Jan. 7, 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., then right on Hope St. Meet outside Alviso Marina parking lot entrance. **Highlights:** Get a head start on your Year List with some vagrant-chasing as we search for some of the unusual Christmas Bird Count birds 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. **RC**

Sunday Jan. 8, 8:00 AM Panoche Valley

Full day. **Leader:** Clay Kempf, (831) 761-8260. **Directions:** Meet at Paicines Store on Hwy 25. **Highlights:** Explore oak woodland and open grassland via back roads. Targets: Phainopepla, Mountain Bluebird, Prairie Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle; other possibilities: Mountain Plover, Lark, Vesper and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Greater Roadrunner, Chukar. **Notes:** Bring lunch and a full tank of gas; carpooling recommended. We'll eat at Panoche Inn. To pre-order a sandwich (recommended), send choice of meat (turkey, ham, pastrami, chicken salad), cheese, and bread to ltjaeger@att.net. **Important:**

Restrooms at Paicines Store limited to paying customers.

Wednesday Jan. 11, 8:30 AM

Guadalupe Oak Grove & Fontana Park

Half day. **Leader:** Janna Pauser, jannapauser@gmail.com. **Directions:** From CA 85 exit South Almaden Exp. At 1.3 miles turn right on McAbee Rd, then .3 mi. to Thorntree Dr. Parking lot on your left at .3 miles. **Highlights:** Birding around oak woodland and Jeffrey Fontana Park to see Acorn Woodpeckers and other woodland birds. **Difficulty:** Easy walking. **RC** <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Guadalupe-Oak-Grove-Park-41>

Sunday Jan. 15, 8:00 AM Calero County Park

Half day. **Leader:** Pete Dunten, (650) 210-6764. **Directions:** 101 South to Bailey Ave., turn right onto Bailey Ave, then left on McKean Rd. at the dead end. Calero County Park will be on the right. Meet at boat launch. **Highlights:** We'll see what's on the reservoir and try to find wintering Grasshopper Sparrows. **Note:** Parking fee.

Saturday Jan. 21, 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 Model Airplane Park (unnamed street). Follow the road for 1/4 mile and park in the gravel lot at the first bend in the road (meet at gate if entrance is locked). **RC**

Sunday Jan. 22, 8:00 AM Sunnyvale Water Treatment Facility

Half day. **Leader:** Dave Zittin, (408) 515-7104. **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:** Great place to study ducks. Scopes highly recommended. **Difficulty:** Fairly easy but long walk. **RC**

Sunday Jan. 29, 9:00 AM Palo Alto Baylands

Half day. **Leader:** Allen Royer, (408) 288-7768. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 in Palo Alto turn right onto Embarcadero Rd. At the stop sign (not light), go left and follow the road past the duck pond to the parking lot across from the building under construction (Lucy Evans Center). Meet at the poles/gate to San Francisquito Creek Trail (towards Lucy Evans Center). **Difficulty:** For beginning birders but all are encouraged to attend. **Notes:** Bring your spotting scope and a friend. **RC**

Wednesday Feb. 1, 12:00 PM

City of Sunnyvale Landfill

One hour. **Leaders:** Freddy Howell and Allen Royer. No RSVP needed. Contact landfill coordinator Silviana Ruiz with any questions - (408) 730-7545. See write-up for Jan. 6. **RC**

Wednesday Feb. 8, 8:30 AM Coyote Creek Trail

Half day. **Leader:** Janna Pauser, jannapauser@gmail.com. **Directions:** From CA 85 South, take Blossom Hill Rd exit east (left). Continue 2.4 miles onto Silver Creek Valley Rd. Make a U-turn at Piercy Rd. then a right into Silver Creek parking lot. **Difficulty:** Easy walking. **RC** http://www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/parkfinder/Documents/159784coyote_trail.pdf

Saturday Feb. 11, 8:00 AM Picchetti Ranch

Half day. **Leader:** Dave Zittin, (408) 515-7104. **Directions:** From I-280 in Cupertino take Foothill Blvd. south 3.3 miles (becomes

Stevens Canyon Rd.). Turn right on Monte Bello Rd., go about a mile, turn left past winery entrance into preserve parking lot. **Difficulty:** Moderately strenuous walk past an old orchard, seasonal pond, and oak woodlands.

Saturday Feb. 18, 7:30 AM Santa Cruz Coastal Hot Spots

Half Day (optional plus). **Leader:** Stephen Berlyant, (415) 420-3680. **Directions:** Meet at Santa Cruz lighthouse on W. Cliff Dr. From Hwy 17 take Hwy 1 north, turn left on Bay St. (just after McDonald's), right onto W. Cliff Dr., follow bluff to lighthouse. **Highlights:** Visit birding hotspots and chase recently reported goodies. **Notes:** Dress in layers, trip goes rain or shine. For those running late, at 8 AM we'll be at the west end of W. Cliff Dr., checking intertidal shelves near the Natural Bridges overlook.

Sunday Feb. 19, 8:00 AM Coyote Point and Foster City, San Mateo County Bayside

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

Sunday Feb. 26, 9:00 AM Palo Alto Baylands

Half day. **Leader:** Allen Royer, (408) 288-7768. For directions see write-up for Jan. 29. **RC**

SCVAS Events Calendar

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

Bay Area Bird Photographers

Embarcadero Room, Rinconada Library

1213 Newell Rd, Palo Alto, CA

Topic 1/4: "Birds of Malaysia and Thailand" with Phoo Chan

Topic 2/1: "The Birds of Cuba" with Peter Hart

See www.scvas.org/babp for more detail

Tues. 1/10 & 2/14; 10:00AM

Eve Case Bird Discussion Group

Meets at the home of Rosalind Roberts: 100 Kathy Ct., Los Gatos. Call Rosalind with questions at (408) 395-6631.

Topic 1/10: Jays

Topic 2/14: Black-capped Chickadee

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Thurs. 1/12 & 2/16; 11:30AM-1:00PM

Nature Journaling with John Muir Laws

McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino

Free workshops for all ages! No RSVP

required; please be on time. See scvas.org (click on "Calendar") for more details.

Thurs. 1/19 & 2/16; 12-1PM

Birding Google Campus

Meets in the Charleston Park parking lot, Mountain View

We have partnered with Google to offer guided bird walks on the Mountain View campus. Googlers, Audubon members, and the general public are invited. Contact Mackenzie Mossing with questions at (408) 394-0330 or mackenziescvas@gmail.com

Sat. 2/18; 10AM-1PM

Cavity Nester Recovery Program

Orientation and Training

McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino

See details on page 9

Young Audubon Activities:

(see details below).

Mon. 1/16; 8:30AM

"Day of Service"

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

Mon. 2/20; Morning (Times TBD)

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 (click "Young Audubon" under the "Kids' Corner" tab).

YOUNG AUDUBON



© Jim Liskovec

Elephant Seal Walks at Año Nuevo State Park
 Date: Monday, Feb. 20 Time: TBD
 Cost: \$7/member: \$9/non-member
 Ages: 7+ years old
 *Space is limited, so sign up early!

Day of Service at McClellan Ranch Preserve
 Date: Monday, Jan. 16 Time: 8:30AM
 Join SCVAS, Grassroots Ecology, and City of Cupertino in restoring the natural beauty of McClellan Ranch.
 Ages: 8+ years old



Rummage Sale?

Let's do it! The rain may have kept us indoors last time, but we think Mother Nature will be on our side this spring. So clean out your attic, dig under your bed, and donate your buried treasures to this fun sale! Pick up some new ones while you're here! Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for more details.

a legacy. Of course the legacy I am talking about is the primary education program, the Wetlands Discovery Program (WDP). No one can write the history and evolution of WDP better than Elaine Gould, one of the program's founders. Her account of WDP history from the May-June 2005 *Avocet* is below.

"In 1989, Lynn Tennefoss, SCVAS Managing Director, hired a consultant to create a Wetlands Discovery Program focused on teaching upper elementary schoolchildren about the importance of seasonal wetlands. As originally conceived, the paid program took each class out in the fall dry season with a follow-up trip during the spring rainy season. The original program was field tested by Elaine Gould and Anonymous, SCVAS Education Committee members and elementary-school teachers. In the ensuing 16 years, due in part to a decline in accessible seasonal wetlands and the inability of schools to pay the cost, the program underwent constant re-evaluation and restructuring. The new structure refocused the program to wetlands in general to include only one field trip per class, and to SCVAS paying for the cost of school buses. [...] our expectation was that the classroom teacher would conduct much of the program if we provided them with the materials and direction. For many reasons, this did not always work well. This approach began to change first with Ulrike Keyssner, SCVAS Volunteer Coordinator, and underwent a complete change when Jennifer Peritz was hired as Education and Programs Coordinator. Jennifer recruited a cadre of volunteers who were trained to present the program in the classroom and act as docents on the field trips. The Education Committee and SCVAS made the commitment to raise enough funds yearly to pay the costs of busing students from their schools to Charleston Slough, the present site of the field trip."

Eleven years later, the program has expanded to encompass more topics to meet the California Science Standards and reach more students. What started as a couple stations has transformed into nine stations focused on migration, history of the bay, and bird identification. We are now at the Palo Alto Baylands where students can touch pickleweed and see the San Francisco Bay for themselves. No matter how many evolutions WDP has gone through, the essence has remained the same: fostering stewardship and bringing students to nature. After 27 years from the program's origination, we serve seventeen schools and this year we will reach over 1,500 students where over half are low-income!

I could not do any of this without my dedicated volunteers on the Education Committee, two of whom started WDP and still volunteer as docents today- Elaine Gould and an anonymous volunteer. It is their dedication and commitment that helped WDP grow and it is this commitment that keeps the program thriving today. A simple thank you to my docents and volunteers is nowhere near enough, and may no one ever "step down" from your docent roles!

If you asked me after I graduated college if I would go into environmental education, I would have laughed at you. Now I am thankful that Toby had the foresight to sign me up as a WDP Docent instead of keeping me as a CNRP monitor. For me, it's the light bulbs that go off, the excitement when a student sees the bird they've studied. It's the teacher's reaction to a "trouble" student who is leading group discussion on bird identification, and their gratefulness for having a program of this kind available. I never thought I would have "migrated" here, but I wouldn't have it any other way.



2016 Election Results - Thank You For Voting!

Several ballot measures that SCVAS endorsed were successful.

Over two thirds of Santa Clara County voters supported Measure A, directing 950 million dollars to creating affordable housing for the most vulnerable among us - homeless people, seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, low-income families, and working families. We hope this measure will help to restore riparian and aquatic ecosystems by helping homeless people relocate from our creeks.

Measure H passed, establishing an Urban Growth Boundary in the City of Gilroy General Plan. Brought forth by citizen activists, this measure will prevent urban sprawl and preserve open space and farmland. SCVAS has commented on Gilroy's growth in the past, and we were glad to endorse Measure H.

Milpitas residents passed Measures I, J, and K extending the life of an Urban Growth Boundary into 2038, thus limiting growth to the valley floor and requiring

a two-thirds voter approval to change hillside development rules outside of the boundary. These measures will protect Milpitas hillsides, parks, and open space from future development.

In Santa Clara, voters showed their appreciation for parks by passing Measure R. This measure will prohibit the sale of public parkland or open space without a two-thirds voter approval. It will also protect parks, including the Ulistac Natural Area, a unique valley floor habitat by the Guadalupe River that SCVAS helped establish and protect.

Last but not least, we are celebrating **voter approval of Proposition 67**, a statewide ban on plastic bags, which will protect our creeks, bay, and ocean from plastic pollution that is harming birds and wildlife. Proposition 65, which would threaten the future of plastic in the environment, failed to fool voters and was defeated.

Conservation Corner: What our Environmental Advocacy Team is working on...

by Shani Kleinhaus, SCVAS Environmental Advocate

Great news for wildlife and open space: Winfield Project in San Jose dropped! Our advocacy team worked closely with Almaden Valley residents to oppose a housing and trail development on designated open space on a hillside near Almaden Lake. This land, at the edge of the city's boundary, was designated private open space in the 1980's and is used by deer, California Quail and other wildlife species as a corridor for moving from the Santa Teresa Foothills to Almaden Valley. Changing the land use designation to public open space and residential housing would have significantly degraded the beautiful views of the hillside from Almaden Lake Park and Alamitos Creek Trail. In addition, we felt that protecting the wildlife habitat and corridor was far more important than public access everywhere. Our comment letters, advocacy with decision makers, and over 1200 signatures on a petition helped support San Jose staff position and convince the Planning Commission that this project should not proceed. The applicant dropped the application and we are hopeful that the wildlife in this area will remain protected from any inappropriate development.

Continuing the fight to protect Coyote Valley:

- SCVAS staff and volunteers (thank you!) attended a public scoping meeting for the proposed Blanchard Rd. (Panattoni) Warehouse Project that would consume thirty acres of North Coyote Valley. We also submitted scoping comments regarding potential impacts on birds, creeks, and wildlife corridors.
- The 2011 General Plan allocated 50,000 jobs for North Coyote Valley, an unrealistic number for the area and one that could lead to widespread industrial development. In its four-year General Plan Review, the City recommends reducing job allocation to 35,000. Along with other organizations, we have asked the City to adhere to its task force recommendation of 20,000 jobs, explaining that we see this as a move in the right direction but continue to believe Coyote Valley is an inappropriate place for development.

Integrating nature into urban and suburban landscapes:

- **Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority** has awarded its first grants to urban open space programs. A conversation with the Environmental Action Committee was the first to highlight the importance of connecting people to nature within our built environment and SCVAS also endorsed Measure Q in 2014. We are glad that funding is now available to support nature restoration and education programs.

- In Palo Alto, we engaged as a stakeholder in the planning of the **Palo Alto Parks, Trails, Natural Open Space and Recreation Master Plan**. The plan now includes the goal to "Preserve and integrate nature, natural systems and ecological principles throughout Palo Alto" as well as policies that support this goal. We hope these plans along with Palo Alto's Urban Forest Master Plan will help birds thrive.
- **The City of San Jose is updating its Greenprint**, a long-term strategic plan that guides future expansion of San José's parks, recreation facilities and community services. **PLEASE HELP** by filling out the Greenprint Survey at <http://bit.ly/greenprintsurvey>, and prioritize "natural places that support wildlife habitat and low impact recreation uses."
- **On IBM's campus in North Coyote Valley**, we successfully advocated for the replacement of six dangerous Eucalyptus trees with twelve Coast Live Oaks. We also helped landscape architects incorporate native plant understory with native trees on property along the Guadalupe River Trail across from **Ulistac Natural Area**.

Mountain View is considering an updated North Bayshore Precise Plan (NBPP) that appears to keep its commitment to birds and wildlife while building "complete neighborhoods" of 8- to 10-story buildings to provide housing, goods, and services to residents. Previously, the NBPP focused on expanding the office park while integrating nature into the campus fabric. We asked the City to keep development away from the egret colony of Shorebird Way and to safeguard Shoreline Park's wildlife, especially Burrowing Owls, from disturbance.

The Lehigh cement quarry has been polluting air and water in Cupertino for decades, discharging selenium, a chemical compound toxic to birds and other animals, into Permanente Creek and area ponds. In November we joined approximately 100 people in an informational public meeting regarding the quarry. Given the known impacts of selenium on fish and birds, we are disappointed that government agencies have not acted faster to stop this source of selenium pollution. We will continue to follow future plans for the quarry and advocate for clean water and air.

For more information or to get involved in conservation and advocacy work, contact Shani at shani@scvas.org.

Field Notes

(October-November 2016)

by Pete Dunten

Geese through Terns

The high counts of **Greater White-fronted Geese** at the four locations they occurred were 25 over the Alviso salt ponds on 5 Oct (TR), nine at Grant Lake in J Grant CP on 6 Oct (OHo), twelve along Bailey Ave in Coyote Valley on 12 Oct (RWR), and two at Byxbee Park on 22 Nov (PDU). **Cackling Geese** have not arrived in any numbers yet, with singles at Ed Levin CP on 10 and 11 Nov (KP, DZ) and at De Anza Park on 21 Nov (JPa). **Snow** and **Ross's Geese** have also been represented by single birds to date. A Snow Goose was at Byxbee Park on 18 Oct (RA, DW) and a Ross's Goose was at Adobe Creek on 26 Oct (MSh) and nearby at the Shoreline Park kite-flying area on 23 Nov (BJ). A male **Common x Barrow's Goldeneye** returned to the Los Capitancillos Ponds for its tenth winter on 25 Nov (JPa). The high count of **White-faced Ibis** this fall migration was forty over Don Edwards NWR on 12 Oct (RQ). Two **Ferruginous Hawks** arrived at their winter quarters along Laguna Ave in Coyote Valley on 9 Oct (BSw, JRC). **Broad-winged Hawks** on migration tend not to linger, and some luck is involved in any sighting. One was over Palo Alto on 12 Oct (JY). The fall passage of **Pectoral Sandpipers** started in late Aug and finished in Oct with two at New Chicago Marsh on 18 Oct (RWR) and one on 19 Oct (m. ob.). The **Stilt Sandpiper** in New Chicago Marsh was found again on 10 Oct (RWR), the only sighting during the period. The **Ruff** in New Chicago Marsh was sighted again on 15 Oct (LL) and several times between 8 Nov and 15 Nov (m. ob.). The first **Mew Gulls** of the winter reached the South Bay on 12 Nov (WGB) when three were at Alviso Salt Pond A12. A12 also hosted an

adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** between 11 and 13 Nov (NoA, BT, GZ). Lesser Black-backed Gulls have stayed for several months in previous winters, something to keep in mind as we approach the Audubon Christmas Bird Count season. **Caspian** and **Elegant Terns** stayed well into Nov, with six Caspian Terns at Alviso Salt Pond A12 on 17 Nov (RJ) and one remaining on 24 Nov (RCa). Thirteen Elegant Terns were still present on 26 Nov at Alviso Salt Pond A16 (WBr, JBr) and seven were in the Alviso area on 27 Nov (MMR, RJ, WBr). There are Northern California records for Elegant Terns in Dec but no records in the South Bay.

Owls through Flickers

The first **Short-eared Owl** of the winter was over the marsh adjacent to Alviso Salt Pond A14 on 5 Oct (TR) and the second was over Alviso Slough adjacent to Salt Pond A9 on 12 Nov (WGB). A **Common Poorwill** in a business park in Sunnyvale near the bay on 3 Nov was at an unusual location on an unusually late date (PSo). Even more surprising was a late **Nighthawk sp.** at Uvas Reservoir on 11 Nov (JF). The mystery of where many of our wintering **White-throated Swifts** roost was solved on 16 Nov when 75 were seen entering their night quarters on Stanford campus (RFu). The spectacle was observed again on 29 Nov when one bird of the group failed to negotiate the restricted entrance and headed elsewhere for the night (RFu). One hummingbird in addition to Anna's can be found in the county at any time of year. An adult male **Costa's Hummingbird** visited the fountain in a Los Gatos backyard between 25 Oct and 15 Nov (KB). **Red-naped Sapsuckers** returned for the winter at traditional locations, one at Almaden Lake Park on 12 Oct (JPa) and one at Ed Levin CP on 29 Oct (GL). On 7 Nov, two female Red-naped Sapsuckers were visiting the same

trees at Ed Levin CP (GL). **Yellow-shafted Northern Flickers**, winter visitors to our area, were seen at Ulistac NA on 1 Oct (WP), Sunnvale Baylands on 13 Oct (MMR), and a Los Gatos yard on 6 and 7 Nov (KB).



Gray Flycatcher by Garrett Lau

Flycatchers through Blackbirds

A **Gray Flycatcher** noted on 11 Nov at Sunnyvale Baylands (PKe, RKe) stayed through the end of the period and photographs have given us glimpses of the progress of the hatch-year flycatcher's first prebasic molt. In photos showing the dorsal side of the flycatcher, the molt of the central pair of tail feathers can be followed, as well as the adventitious replacement of one of the outer tail feathers. Gray Flycatchers rarely winter this far north; the Gray Flycatcher wintering in Alameda County in 2009 – 2010 was only the third recorded for Northern California. Other birds staying late and potentially through the winter were three **Barn Swallows** at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin on 30 Nov (MDo), another on the same date in Alviso near the northeast corner of Salt Pond A15 (WGB), and single **House Wrens** at Coit Lake in Henry Coe SP on 19 Nov (JY, AL) and at Ulistac NA as late as 21 Nov (PW). A few **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** often winter, and they were noted at four locations in Nov. Two were at Santa Teresa CP on 4 Nov (JPa), one was at the Coyote Creek Field Station (CCFS) on 20 Nov (AR), one was at

Field Notes *cont'd*

Calero Reservoir on 24 Nov (PDU), and one was south of Matadero Creek below Hwy 101 on 26 Nov (WGB). A **Phainopepla** delighted observers at Guadalupe Oak Grove Park between 13 and 19 Nov (JPa, m. ob.). Phainopeplas spent part of last winter in the park, although they were not detected until late in Dec last year. The **Northern Waterthrush** at the Charleston Road Marsh was noted only once, on 22 Oct (PLa). The nice collection of fall vagrant eastern warblers from Sept grew in Oct with the addition of a **Cape May Warbler** at the Palo Alto WTP from 15 to 17 Oct (SCR, m. ob.) and a **Magnolia Warbler** at Sunnyvale Baylands on 12 Oct (PKe, CWf).



Cape May Warbler by Thy Bun

Those were the second and ninth county records, respectively. The Cape May Warbler took advantage of a termite flight during its brief visit. While **Palm Warblers** don't occur every year, this fall and winter have already yielded several. The first to arrive, on 6 Oct at Lake Cunningham (JPa), stayed only through 8 Oct (m. ob.). Another turned up on 6 Nov at Charleston Slough (RLw) and two were photographed together there on 11 Nov (OM). On 21 Nov one was found at New Chicago Marsh (RWR), and two were nearby at the Don Edwards NWR EEC from 23

to 27 Nov (AR, m. ob.). Additional warblers that might stay for the winter included single **Black-throated Gray Warblers** at Ulistac NA on 5 Nov (KON) and at J Grant CP on 25 Nov (AMc) and a **Wilson's Warbler** at the CCFS on 20 Nov (AR). A spiffy hatch-year **Clay-colored Sparrow** visited Foothill College in Sunnyvale between 8 and 13 Nov (ARu, m. ob.). A **Slate-colored Fox Sparrow** at the Don Edwards NWR EEC on 3 Nov was a nice find (AR). A **Swamp Sparrow** was netted at the CCFS on 9 Nov (JSc), and closer to the bay at Palo Alto Baylands one was seen on 13 and 15 Nov (RJ, GL, ChJ). **Slate-colored Juncos** augment our local population of Oregon Juncos in the winter; one was at Sunnyvale Baylands on 13 Nov (EGo) and another at Lake Cunningham on 23 Nov (WGB). The first **White-throated Sparrow** to arrive for the winter was one seen at Sunnyvale Baylands on 9 Oct (CWf) and again on 13 Oct (PKe). **Western Tanagers** remaining into Nov included one along Uvas Creek in Gilroy on 1 Nov (JMn et al.), one at Ulistac NA on 7 Nov (PB), and one at Santa Clara University on 12 Nov (JVs). **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** continued to be present at two locations, with one staying at the Sunnyvale WPCP until 2 Oct (VT) and two along Laguna Ave in Coyote Valley until 14 Oct (MJM).



Clay-colored Sparrow by Garrett Lau

Observers: Robin Agarwal (RA), Noah Arthur (NoA), Patrick Baglee (PB), Jim Brooks (JBr), Will Brooks (WBr), Bill Bousman (WGB), Karen Burnson (KB), Richard Carlson (RCa), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Pete Dunten (PDU), John Fox (JF), Rob Farrow (RFu), Eric Goodill (EGo), Owen Holt (OHo), Richard Jeffers (RJ), Chris Johnson (ChJ), Bob Juhl (BJ), Roland Kenner (RKe), Pat Kenny (PKe), Peter LaTourrette (PLa), Garrett Lau (GL), Amy Lauterbach (AL), Robert Lewis (RLw), Louise Liou (LL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Jeff Manker (JMn), Amy McDonald (AMc), Oscar Moss (OM), Kitty O'Neil (KON), Kathryn Parker (KP), Janna Pauser (JPa), William Pelletier (WP), Rodolfo Quinio (RQ), Rob Reiling (RWR), John Rice-Cameron (JRC), Alex Rinkert (AR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Tobias Rohmer (TR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Andrew Rush (ARu), Josh Scullen (JSc), Mike Shafto (MSh), Pete Sole (PSo), Byron Swift (BSw), Vivek Tiwari (VT), Bob Toleno (BT), Jason Vassallo (JVs), Pingang Wang (PW), Dave Weber (DW), Christine Wolfe (CWf), James Yurchenco (JY), David Zittin (DZ), Gina Zolotar (GZ)

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

SCVAS Adult Education: Winter 2017

We are pleased to offer the following classes to our members and community. Information about our upcoming classes and field seminars is also available on our website's calendar at www.scvas.org.

Outdoor Photography Refresher with Ralph Schardt



Dates: Thursday, Jan. 26th and Tuesday, Feb. 21st Cost: \$25 Non-members, \$15 Members
Location: McClellan Ranch - Meet at SCVAS Time: 8:30-10:00AM

Please join our Executive Director, Ralph Schardt and explore the outdoor photography opportunities at McClellan Ranch Preserve. Ralph will assist you with using your photo equipment in an outdoor environment. Learn to take better nature and landscape photos with a few easy examples. Ralph will help you understand what is needed for different outdoor conditions and how to take advantage of natural light. Rain cancels, with refund or credit for future classes. Wear layers and clothing appropriate for an easy hike on level, but unpaved trails. Charge your camera overnight before attending.

Birding Life List Class

Thursday, February 16, 2017
10:00-11:30 AM

Have you ever wondered how to start a Life List or maybe thought the idea was daunting? Join Kym Sugano to learn about why birders have a Life List and how to start your own!

Class is open to everyone
Optional: Bring your Life List

COST: \$15 MEMBERS, \$20 NON-MEMBERS
**LOCATION: MCCLELLAN RANCH
CONFERENCE ROOM**

To register, find the class on our website's calendar.

Cavity Nesters Recovery Program

Get involved this spring - enjoy the beauty of nature *and* help our local birds!

Monitor Training Session
Saturday, February 18th; 10:00 AM-1:00 PM
McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino

We'll start with general information for potential and/or new nest box monitors. You'll learn what's going on with our local cavity nesters and how you can help stop their decline. After that we'll grab a quick lunch (so bring food!) and then walk along the nest box trail at McClellan Ranch and learn how to open nest boxes, identify different species, and troubleshoot. We will also discuss the various ways to volunteer. This session is open to all new monitors or any existing monitors who would like a refresher. RSVP to outreach@scvas.org, or by using the online form at www.scvas.org/cnrp.

****Attention Current Monitors: Don't forget to clean out your nest boxes by the end of February!****



Photos by Tom Grey

In Remembrance...

SCVAS would like to recognize the special volunteers whose extraordinary efforts for our chapter will be missed.

Ulf Stauber

To say Ulf Stauber was a life-long lover of nature is putting it lightly. His interest in birds developed over time, and it was this passion that eventually lead him to SCVAS. He was a volunteer for the Wetlands Discovery Program in its early stages in the 1990's and a regular member and contributor to the Saint Anthony Ranchers Birdathon team. Ulf's niche within SCVAS was not only as a volunteer and member, but also as a monitor for the Cavity Nester Recovery Program, where he established and helped monitor the Rancho San Antonio trails. We thank Ulf for his dedication to many of our programs, and his commitment as the Rancho San Antonio Monitor will surely be missed. He was an exceptional human being and lives on in the hearts of all who had the good fortune to know him.



Lillian (Tibby) Simon

Submitted by Rob Simon on Palo Alto Online

Tibby Simon was a resident of Palo Alto since 1950. She was born in Brooklyn, Connecticut, on her grandmother's farm. She worked at Stanford for 40 years in various positions. She was a longtime supporter of the Audubon Society and a gift may be made in her name to them. Tibby is survived by her daughter Joyce Doran of New Zealand; son Rob Simon of San Rafael, California; grandchildren Jennifer Doran of New Zealand, Jackson Coffey of Portland, Oregon, Trevor Simon (Heather) of Forest Knolls, California and Brian Simon (Theresa Martin) of San Anselmo, California; and five great-grandchildren Brooke, Meghan, Jack, Amber and Alexander.

Friends of SCVAS

Gifts received October 1st, 2016 through November 30th, 2016

Gift (Up to \$99)

Sharon Chen	Deborah and Forest Weld	Stanley and Elaine Gould	Charlotte Epstein
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Curtis Engelhard	Genevieve deVries	Herbert Grench	Larry Porter
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Judy and Jack Griffin	Winnifred Homer-Smith	Curtis and Betty Mitchell	(\$250 - \$499)
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Martha O'Neal	Michael Pyle	Linda Votteri	(\$500 - \$999)
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The Education Department Needs Your Help!

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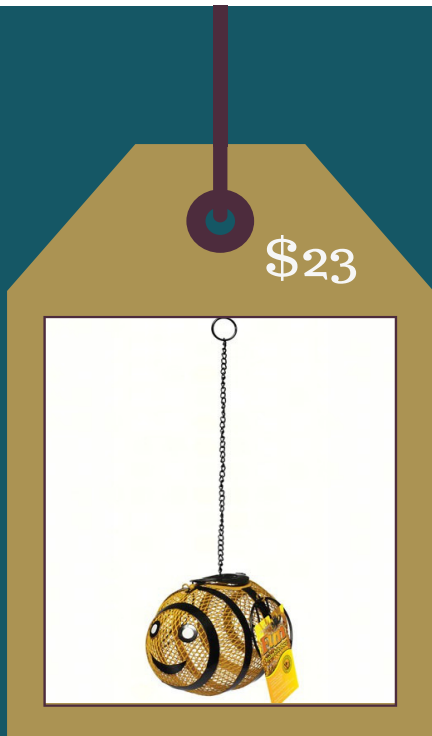
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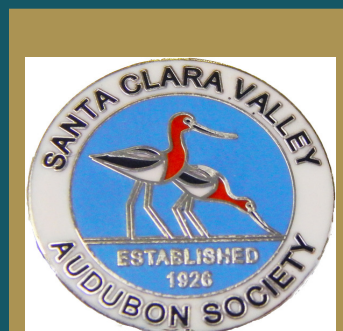
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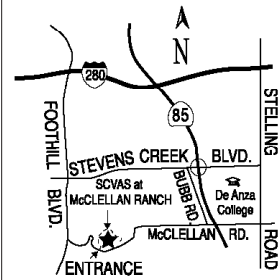
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2016 New Members of SCVAS

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

Colin Campbell & Kelly Alfrey
 Jim Mikus and Janet Mahoney
 Leah Moffatt
 Winnifred Homer-Smith
 Patti Berryhill
 Sherry Stack
 Charles Barker & Susan Barker
 Roni Sheaffer

And thank you to those who renewed their membership!

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Sign up to receive your newsletter via email and enjoy these benefits:

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- Get a FREE SCVAS pin!

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

STAFF

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Office Fax

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Office E-mail

scvas@scvas.org

Website

www.scvas.org

MONTHLY SPEAKER SERIES are held on the third Wednesday of each month except July, August and December and are open to the public.

NATURE SHOP HOURS

Monday - Friday

10 AM - 4 PM

Saturday

10 AM - 2 PM

Please call (408) 252-3747 for special requests.

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

Details available on the SCVAS website.

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

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