



THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

March-April 2017

Support Our Wetlands by Purchasing a Duck Stamp

by *Ralph Schardt, Executive Director*

In the early 1900s loss of wetlands due to agricultural growth was beginning to take a toll on the ducks that migrated, lived and bred in wetland habitats. On top of that, over-hunting was depleting many species of waterfowl to dangerous levels - Wood Ducks alone were on the verge of extinction. In response to this disturbing trend, several federal acts were passed between 1901 and the mid 1930s to stop over-hunting and to better protect waterfowl and wetland habitats.

In 1934, Congress passed the "Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act," commonly known as the "Duck Stamp Act." This program's effectiveness was due to its simple process of enforcement - anyone over the age of sixteen that carried a hunting license had to purchase a Duck Stamp and 98% of the proceeds from this stamp went to protecting wetlands and setting aside acreage for the National Wildlife Refuge system. I could go into the specific numbers of bird species saved and acres of wetlands created due to the stamp's revenue, but most crucial is the fact that the purchase of these stamps is currently waning. A number of recent articles have shown the numbers of duck hunters decreasing across the nation - fewer duck hunters means fewer stamps purchased.

However, the good news is that birding is leading duck hunting as a sport. Duck hunter numbers are down to approximately 2.5 million, the lowest rate in decades, while statistics show that over 46 million people across the country are avid birders. As a result of this dramatic trend, many organizations are encouraging birders, wildlife photographers, and other outdoor enthusiasts to buy a Federal Duck Stamp/Junior Duck Stamp to support conservation of waterfowl and secure wetland safety for the future. Duck Stamps are currently \$25 and will give you free entry to any National Wildlife Refuge that charges an entry fee. To find out more, check out the SCVAS website and the links listed under "At Home" Conservation. See how you can make a difference!



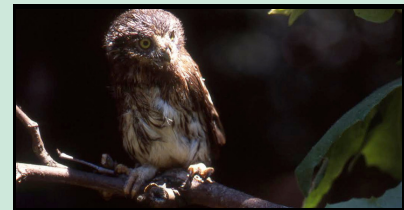
2017 Monthly Speaker Series

Cubberley Community Center, Rm H1 - Middlefield & Montrose Roads, Palo Alto
Doors open 7:30 PM; program 8:00 PM

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

"What Makes Owls So Special?" with Hans Peeters

Are owls really wise? The seductive blink of their eyes and slow turns of their heads certainly suggest deliberation and purpose. Wisdom, however, is hardly an attribute of these efficient killing machines. So what else makes owls so special? Nearly everything! Join us for a fascinating lecture with esteemed ornithologist, painter, writer and naturalist Hans Peeters.



Wednesday, April 19, 2017

"Cormorants on the Bay Bridges" with Mark Rauzon and Meredith Elliott

The Bay Bridge and Richmond-San Rafael Bridge have hosted the Bay Area's largest nesting colonies of Double-crested Cormorants for decades, but now these colonies are declining. Learn about this resilient species and its adaptable, yet maligned regional population. Mark Rauzon is a geography professor at Laney College and wildlife biologist. Meredith Elliott is a Senior Scientist at Point Blue Conservation Science.

March-April Field Trips

(Full details are also available online at www.scvas.org)

Wednesday Mar. 1, 12:00 PM

City of Sunnyvale Landfill
One hour. **Leaders:** Freddy Howell and Allen Royer. No RSVP needed. Contact landfill coordinator, Silvana 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 geared toward beginners. **Notes:** Bring binoculars; loaners available. **RC**

Saturday Mar. 4, 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.

Wednesday Mar. 8, 8:30 AM

Mendoza Ranch/Coyote Lake City Park

Half day. **Leader:** Jim Johnson (408) 996-3506 **Directions:** From Hwy 101 in Gilroy, take Leavesley Rd. east for 1.5 miles, turn left on New Ave. then right on Roop Rd. Go left at the T intersection and continue .9 miles to Mendoza Ranch parking lot on the left. We'll bird here briefly before continuing to Lakeview Picnic area in Coyote Lake Park. **LO, RC**

Saturday Mar. 11, 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., go 0.8 miles to the parking lot on the left just past The Sequoias. Meet in the parking lot at Sausal Pond edge of the preserve. **RC**

Sunday Mar. 12, 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 about 9 miles to the park. Meet at Grant Lake (aka Hall's Valley Lake) parking lot, first parking lot on the left (do not enter the Main Park Entrance on the right). **Highlights:** Fresh water ducks, oak woodland birds and possible Golden Eagle. **Notes:** Daylight Savings! Spring forward or be late! Park entrance fee required for last half of trip. **Difficulty:** Involves a moderately strenuous 2-mile walk. **LO, RC**

Saturday Mar. 18, 8:00 AM

Charleston Slough

Half day. **Leader:** Nick Yatsko, (408) 891-3187 **Directions:** Meet at Terminal Way at the end of San Antonio Rd. north off Hwy 101 in Mountain View. **Notes:** All are encouraged to attend but birding will be geared towards beginners.

Sunday Mar. 26, 8:00 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 the San Francisquito Creek Trail (towards Lucy Evans Center). **Difficulty:** For

Please carpool if possible; bring binoculars, field guides, layered clothing. LO = Lunch optional; RC = Heavy rain cancels; NF = No facilities available

beginning birders but all are encouraged to attend. **Notes:** Bring your spotting scope and a friend. **RC**

Wednesday Mar. 29, 8:00 AM

Uvas Creek Park Preserve

Half day. **Leader:** Rick Herder, (408) 779-3885 **Directions:** From Hwy 101 in Gilroy go west on 10th Street about a mile where it turns right and becomes Uvas Pkwy. Turn left at Miller Ave, go over Uvas Creek and turn left into Christmas Hill Park. Park in the first aisle to the right. **Difficulty:** Fairly easy, but long walk. **LO, RC**

Saturday Apr. 8, 8:00 AM Arastradero OSP

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

Sunday Apr. 9, 8:15 AM Ogier Ponds

Half day. **Leader:** Rich Page, (408) 377-1092 **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 road (meet at gate if entrance is locked). **Notes:** Viewing distances can be distant; scopes recommended. **RC**

Wednesday Apr. 12, 8:30 AM

Santa Teresa County Park

Half day. **Leader:** Janna Pauser, (408) 997-1727 **Directions:** From CA 85 South exit 1B (Bernal) or take Santa Teresa Blvd. and go south on Bernal. Follow

Bernal up hill and turn left at entrance road. Use county pass or purchase \$6 day pass at first parking lot. Meet at second parking lot. **Difficulty:** Approximately 2 miles, some hills. **Highlights:** Spring arrivals, wildflowers. **LO, RC**

Saturday Apr. 15, 8:00 AM Ulistac Natural Area

Half day. **Leader:** Dave Zittin, (408) 515-7104 **Directions:** From Hwy 237 take Great America Pkwy south for about 0.8 miles, turn left on Tasman Dr. for about one mile, right on Lick Mill Blvd. and meet at the south park entrance on the left. **Highlights:** We'll look for migrants and local breeding birds in diverse habitats.

Saturday Apr. 22, 8:00 AM Charleston Slough

Half day. **Leader:** Nick Yatsko, (408) 891-3187. **Directions:** See write-up for Mar. 18th.

Wednesday Apr. 26, 9:00 AM*

Lagunas Blvd and Coyote Valley

Half day. **Leader:** Rick Herder, (408) 779-3885 **Directions:** Take Hwy 101 south, exit right (west) onto Bailey Rd. Turn left on Hale/Santa Teresa Blvd. In 0.8 miles, turn right on West Laguna Ave and park. **Notes:** For early birders*, meet at Lagunas Blvd at 8:00 AM, otherwise, the trip will begin at 9:00AM at Coyote Valley. **Highlights:** Raptors possible. **RC**

Sunday Apr. 30, 9:00 AM Palo Alto Baylands

Half day. **Leader:** Allen Royer, (408) 288-7768 **Directions:** See write-up for Mar. 26th. **RC**

SCVAS Events Calendar

Wed. 3/1 & 4/5, 7:30-9PM

Bay Area Bird Photographers

Embarcadero Room, Rinconada Library
1213 Newell Rd, Palo Alto, CA

Topic 3/1: "Hunting Birds with a Camera" with Bob Lewis

Topic 4/5: "Exploring Wildlife of Indonesia" with John Richardson

See www.scvas.org/babp for more detail

Tues. 3/14 & 4/11; 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 3/14: Orioles

Topic 4/11: Your own bird-related topic

Thurs. 3/16 & 4/13; 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. 3/16 & 4/13; 12-1PM

Birding Google Campus

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](mailto:mackenziescvas@gmail.com)

3/16: Stevens Creek; meet at Stevens Creek
trailhead at the end of Crittenden Ln

4/13: Charleston Marsh; meet at intersection
of Shorebird Way and Charleston Rd.

Young Audubon Activities:

Sat. 5/6; 7:30AM-10:00AM

Conservation in Action: Bird Banding with SFBBO

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

Cost: \$25/family or \$8/child, \$10/adult
*Children must be accompanied by a
guardian

Sat. 5/20; 10:00AM-3:00PM

Winding Family Fest!

Join SCVAS and Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District for a FREE event
for all ages at Skyline Ridge Open Space
Preserve. Highlights will include bird
and nature walks, arts and crafts, and live
bird guests!

*Note: Information and links to RSVP are
also available on our website (click "Young
Audubon" under the "Kids' Corner" tab).*

SCVAS Adult Education: Spring 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.



Photo by Ralph Schardt

Outdoor Photography Refresher with Ralph Schardt

Dates: Tuesday, March 14 and Thursday, April 6

Time: 8:30-10:00AM

Location: McClellan Ranch - Meet at SCVAS

Cost: \$25 Non-members, \$15 Members

Please join our Executive Director, Ralph Schardt, and explore outdoor photography opportunities at McClellan Ranch. Ralph will help you understand what photography equipment is needed for different outdoor conditions and how to take advantage of natural light. You'll learn to take better nature and landscape photos with a few easy examples. 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.



Photo by Kym Sugano

Beginner's Bird and Plant Identification Walk Series

Session #1: First Day of Spring – March 19, 2017, 9 am to 12 noon

This walk is organized jointly by California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, and Open Space Authority, and is open to all.

Join us for a beginner's bird and plant identification walk through Lake Cunningham Park - a major destination for waterfowl and migratory birds, and home to many resident birds. Vicki Silvas-Young will show you how to identify common local birds and the native plants they depend on for food, shelter, and nesting places. Trip distance is four miles round-trip on a level path. Bring a hat, water, bird and plant list, binoculars, and walking shoes. Parking fee is \$6.

Space is limited. RSVP to Arvind Kumar arvind.kumar@cnpns.org to reserve your spot and to receive directions and details.

Spring Birdathon is Almost Here!

Get ready for Spring Birdathon - our annual birding contest and primary fundraiser of the year, with exciting prizes (see below!). Proceeds support SCVAS Conservation and Education programs, which will bring more kids out into nature. To entice birders of ALL ages and skill levels to compete, we offer options to suit everyone (see below). So get ready for the **2017 Spring Birdathon contest window from March 25 to April 30**. You can sign up, read the contest rules, ask questions, and learn about our prizes at: www.scvas.org/birdathon.

Option 1: Join a guided team

Pick a team, leader, or intensity level that suits you (see below) and register online for a \$50 donation.

Option 2: Form your own team

It's easy! Choose at least 2 team members, a birding date, a (goofy) team name, and a birding location. Pick a category for your team, register, go birding together, and record your total species and dollars raised. Note: You **must** register to qualify for prizes. We ask you to raise \$50 (or more!) for each team member through fundraising or your own contribution -- it's for a good cause!

Option 3: Donate! Stay home watching the feeders, instead. Note which team or birder you are sponsoring - we'll add your amount to their contest total. Mail checks payable to SCVAS to 22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino, CA 95014 or donate online at www.scvas.org/birdathon.

Our guided birdathon teams have picked the best routes, the best themes, and amazing Santa Clara County trip leaders to tempt you to join. We are looking for ALL levels of birders for these teams - simply raise the requested donation of \$50, grab your binoculars and come birding with us! Space on guided teams is limited, so sign up today! Registration forms, a list of the exciting guided trips, and full list of rules are at www.scvas.org/birdathon. There will also be trips with other Audubon chapters!

Team options (for guided and private teams) include:

- 24-hour Guided Teams (Any team over 4 hours is in this category. Some teams even include owling...)
- 4-hour Guided Teams (4 hours of fast birding fun!)
- Big-Sit 4-hour Guided Teams (perfect for those who want to do some relaxing bird watching.)
- 24-hour Photography Teams (4-24 hours of photographing birds)
- 4-hour Photography

2017 Birdathon Important Dates

- Registration for a team: Begins in February (now!) and ends at least 1 week prior to your Birdathon day
- Birdathon Window: March 25 - April 30
- Results Due/Donation cut-off: May 15 @ 5PM
- Awards dinner: June 6 @ 6PM

****Questions? Contact the Birdathon Coordinator, Kelsey Frey at: scvasbirdathon@gmail.com.**

Birdathon: It's On!

Guided Teams

- **Rock Wrens:** 24-hour; led by Bob Hirt
- **Cupertino Creek Cruisers:** 4-hour; led by Deborah Jamison
- **Golden Gate Audubon:** 4-hour; led by Glen Tepke
- **Fledglings:** TBA, check website
- **Board not Bored:** TBA, check website
- **The Mean Green Birding Machines:** 4-hour biking; led by Rob Furrow
- **Varied Twitchers:** 24-hour; led by Mike Rogers
- **Persistent Picidaes:** 24-hour; led by Lisa Myers

Prizes

- Wine tasting for 4 at Alfaro Family Vineyards
- A guided bird walk with Bob Hirt
- 2 Exploratorium tickets
- Hawaii rainforest and dryforest adventure for 2
- Whale watching with Cheeseman's Ecology Safaris
- Guided walk with Ralph Schardt at Pinnacles to see condors
- And many more!

****Keep checking scvas.org/birdathon for updates on new teams, their descriptions, and prizes.*

Why Should YOU Join Birdathon?

Food, fun, prizes, and bird-watching for a good cause!

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

by Shani Kleinhaus, SCVAS Environmental Advocate

Santa Clara Valley Audubon recently filed suit against the City of San Jose, challenging the approval of the Topgolf Project in Alviso.

In December, San Jose City Council certified an Environmental Review Document and approved a General Plan Amendment to the Alviso Specific Plan in conjunction with planned development rezoning. This will allow a 36-acre site along North First Street to be developed into a commercial/retail space, hotel, and an indoor/outdoor Topgolf recreation facility: a three-story driving structure where groups drive golf balls into an artificial turf area surrounded by 170-ft. netting. This center will open in the direction of the Guadalupe River, and will have lights and music every day, from the evening to the early morning hours.

We believe that the City has violated the California Environmental Quality Act by providing an inadequate level of analysis and mitigation for this project, circumventing its own land use directives, and degrading the natural and social fabric of Alviso. The City failed to recognize the significant and permanent harm that this project will impose on the environment and the Alviso Community.

Situated in an ecologically valuable and sensitive area of the bay, Alviso is a small, quaint town known for its natural amenities. Along the waterfront, marshes, salt ponds, and tidal sloughs comprise the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge and Salt Pond Restoration project, contributing to the beauty and unique character of the coastal town. Flocks of wintering and migratory birds visit Alviso's bay lands, making it a popular location for birders. In addition, the Guadalupe River provides habitat and a wildlife and migration corridor, to the enjoyment of the many residents who frequent the Guadalupe Creek Trail. Alviso is also home to the largest breeding Burrowing Owl population in the South Bay.

We consider development of the Topgolf project to be a significant and permanent loss of Burrowing Owl habitat, a resource that is desperately needed to support the largest remaining population of owls in the South Bay. As if the loss of foraging habitat for Burrowing Owls was not enough, the Topgolf facility will be surrounded by a staggering

170-ft netting structure adjacent to the Guadalupe River, creating an eyesore that will be seen for miles in San Jose, Santa Clara and all along Highway 237. What's more, the project has been approved for late night use: bright lights, loud music, and drinking will be permitted on site until 2AM. Did we mention the development would also be located across the street from Alviso's elementary school? Surely this project will cause a disturbance to migratory birds and to the Alviso community.

Our lawsuit is based on our finding that the Mitigated Negative Declaration document produced by the City does not provide an adequate level of analysis and mitigation for the loss of Burrowing Owl habitat and the aesthetic impacts of 170-ft netting. We believe that the Topgolf project does not align with unique aesthetic and ecological qualities of Alviso, and is therefore an inappropriate development for this community.

A win for wildlife!

Los Gatos Town Council has selected wildlife-friendly fencing as a strategic priority for the Town, modifying the town code regarding fences to allow wildlife movement. Along with other environmental organizations, SCVAS asked town leaders to preserve permeability and migration routes. Rapid urbanization of the Bay Area has created a severely fragmented remnant wildlife habitat, forcing animals to traverse roads, highways, fencing and other barriers in order to migrate and access vital resources. With this, conflict between humans and wildlife often arise, posing a safety hazard to both animals and vehicle traffic. By developing an ordinance that restricts the use of impassable property fences, the Town of Los Gatos is making an effort that will make a tremendous difference in the ability of wildlife to move through our area.

The City of San Jose is updating its Greenprint, a long-term strategic plan that guides future expansion of San Jose'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."

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

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Burrowing Owl Habitat Management – Help our local Burrowing Owl populations by removing invasive weeds on and around their burrows in time for the approaching breeding season. This project takes place one Saturday each month, from 9AM-1PM. Garden gloves and hand tools provided.

Community Outreach – Festival season is quickly approaching and SCVAS needs your help tabling festivals all over Santa Clara County. These fun events are a great chance for us to recruit new members, let people know about our upcoming events, and promote our mission.

Wetlands Discovery Program Docents (Volunteers can participate in one or both components)

- In-Class Programs: Volunteers assist elementary students in a series of stations focused on the wetland habitat, birds, and changes in the bay. Docents are also encouraged to volunteer for other school activities as

they are scheduled. Training provided.

- Field Trips: Volunteers lead groups of students around Charleston Slough on bird and nature exploration walks to discuss topics students learned in school. Training provided.

Google Bird Walks - As part of a sponsorship with Google, SCVAS is hosting monthly birding walks of Google's campus in Mountain View - all are welcome to join, including Google employees and Audubon members. We are in need of confident birders to help guide the group, identify birds, and answer questions. Over 30 people, ranging from first-time birders to experienced birders, attended the last walk. We expect a larger group next time and could use your help!

For more information or to volunteer for any of these opportunities, contact Kelly at outreach@scvas.org.

Field Notes

(December 2016-January 2017)

by Pete Dunten

Geese through Ibises

Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were found through the Dec – Jan period between Bailey Ave and Laguna Ave in Coyote Valley (m. ob.). Wintering **Cackling Geese** arrived in greater numbers, with groups of thirteen along Bailey Ave on 27 Dec (RPh et al.) and eighteen at Los Capitancillos Ponds on 15 Jan (KB, MMR). A group of **Snow Geese** at the Bailey Ave wetland started with one adult noted on 6 Dec (MJM), grew to two birds on 26 Dec (BH) and finally four birds on 20 Jan (LFl, GnM, DgP, DnP). Single Snow Geese were also found at Grant Lake on 4 Dec (RSh) and in Byxbee Park on 18 Dec (PhB). The lone **Ross's Goose** wintering at the Shoreline Park area was at the kite flying area on 2 Dec (AME) and 4 Dec (WGB) and on Salt Pond A1 on 9 Dec (AR). **Tundra Swans** haven't been found in the county since the winter of 2012-2013, but on 3 Dec a group of ten flew over Alviso (ChJ), and on 15 Jan one was on Ogier Ponds (MMR). A **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** has been at Charleston Slough since 5 Dec (BJ, RSh), remaining through the end of Jan, and another was seen at Harvey Marsh on 20 Jan (RJ). An intergrade **American x Eurasian Green-winged Teal** was also found at Charleston Slough on 11 Dec (OA), and another was at Palo Alto Baylands on 13 Jan (GL). A count of 2079 **Redhead** on 2 Dec on closed refuge ponds was unusually high (MMR, RJ), suggesting the ducks either had an excellent breeding year or Redhead which usually winter elsewhere have come to the south bay this winter. The only **Barrow's Goldeneye** of the winter was a female photographed on Alviso Salt Pond A15 on 3 Dec (ChJ). A second male **Barrow's x Common Goldeneye** was found on Alviso Salt Pond A11 on 29 Jan (RJ, MJM, MMR). The hybrid male at Los Capitancillos Ponds was seen by many through 29 Jan. The dearth of loons this winter was relieved by the arrival of a **Pacific Loon** on 15 Jan at Los Capitancillos Ponds (KB, MMR, ChJ) which stayed through 29 Jan (m. ob.). **Pelagic Cormorants** are rare this far south in the bay, but occasionally occur with Double-crested Cormorants. One was with Double-crested Cormorants on the levee between Alviso Salt Ponds A11 and A14 on 29 Jan (PW). With the absence of the **American Bittern**

at the end of Terminal Way, reports are again a matter of chance encounters. Only one was reported during the period, from Alviso Slough on 16 Jan (WGB). Single **White-faced Ibises** were seen at the Sunnyvale WPCP on 9 Dec (WGB) and in New Chicago Marsh on 24 and 25 Jan (RJ, GL).



Pacific Loon by Garrett Lau

Hawks through Sapsuckers

The **Ferruginous Hawk** count along Laguna Ave in Coyote Valley increased to three on 3 Jan (MJM). They were also found at the Sierra Rd summit from 2 Jan (WP), when one was present, and through 30 Jan, when two were seen (JCh, DH). A late-to-migrate **Broad-winged Hawk** passed over Oka Ponds on 2 Dec (JVs) and wasn't seen again. A stunning leucistic fourth-year **Bald Eagle** visited Ogier Ponds on 2 Jan (SCR, DZ, ER). With its distinctive plumage, the bird was easy to track around the area. On 5 Jan (DLS) and 7 Jan (SCR) it turned up at San Felipe Lake and on 9 Jan it was at Natural Bridges SB in Santa Cruz (NU). Tracking an individual eagle might also be possible with photos showing molting wing feathers, something for our local photographers to explore. While **Black Rails** have recently established themselves near Alviso Marina, they have in the past been noted at Palo Alto Baylands during days with high tides. One was seen at the Baylands on 12 Jan during a high tide event (SMi, KP). **Wilson's Phalaropes** are rarely found over winter; hence one on Alviso Salt Pond A12 on 16 Jan was unexpected (WGB). A single **Red Phalarope** on Alviso Salt Pond A13 was a nice year-end find, as it was a species that was missed last winter. The phalarope was found between 18 Dec (MMR, SCR) and 1 Jan (m. ob.). An adult **Kumlien's Iceland Gull** was with other gulls at Sobrato HS in Morgan Hill on 7 Jan (SCR). Their status in the county is difficult to determine given the similarities between juveniles and pale and worn Thayer's Gulls. The **Glaucous Gull** is a gull that typically arrives later in

the winter than other wintering gulls. True to form, the first Glaucous Gulls noted were two at Ogier Ponds on 2 Jan (SCR) and another at Alviso Salt Pond A16 on 25 Jan (SJ) and 29 Jan (MJM, MMR, RJ). **Caspian Terns** stayed well into December, with one to two found around the bottom of the bay through 13 Dec (m. ob.). The latest **Elegant Tern** to stay in the area was one noted at Alviso Salt Pond A11 on 2 Dec (MMR, RJ) - our first record in December. A **Greater Roadrunner** was spotted near Harry Rd and Bernal Rd on 28 Jan (JPa), a location they've been known to frequent. A **Long-eared Owl** was heard calling at the San Felipe Ranch during the Calero-Morgan Hill CBC on 27 Dec (MMR). **Short-eared Owls** were missed in Dec, but found on 2 Jan at Don Edwards NWR (WP, KON) and on 11 Jan at Palo Alto Baylands (JCh, GHa). Wintering **Burrowing Owls** are sometimes found at higher elevations than known breeding areas, and this winter was no exception. Single owls were spotted near Felt Lake on 11 Dec (AME, PDU), near the south end of Calaveras Reservoir on 18 Dec (DZ et al.), and near the Sierra Road summit on 22 Dec (WP, KON) and 11 Jan (GL). These were likely owls from Western Canada supplementing our local population over winter. The higher elevation habitat that supports Burrowing Owls during winter will be free of owls over summer. **Allen's Hummingbird** is the earliest migrant to return to our area, well before spring. The first returning hummingbirds were noted on 30 Jan, when one was at Los Capitancillos Ponds (DN) and a male was performing shuttle and dive displays for a female along Coyote Creek at Sycamore Drive (PDU). This is our earliest arrival date for a female Allen's Hummingbird. Many observers enjoyed the **Red-naped Sapsucker** at Almaden Lake Park through the end of Jan; another was sighted along Oakmead Parkway in Sunnyvale on 3 Dec (PDU). One Red-naped and one **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** continued to be seen at Ed Levin CP through the period (m. ob.).

Flycatchers through Phainopepla

Two wintering Empidonax Flycatchers were found during Dec and Jan. A wintering **Hammond's Flycatcher** graced the San Jose CBC on 18 Dec, along Coyote Creek on the Los Lagos Golf Course grounds (FV). It remained through 1 Jan (MMR, MJM). The **Gray Flycatcher** found at Sunnyvale Baylands in early November stayed through 2 Jan (m. ob.). Two **Cassin's Vireos** were found in Dec, one on 3 Dec (RJ) and 4 Dec (WGB) along

Field Notes *cont'd*

Oakmead Parkway in Sunnyvale, and one on 15 Dec (DK) near Permanente Creek in Mountain View. During this period an extraordinary number of swallows were reported, frequently in mixed-species flocks. **Tree Swallow** flocks of over a hundred swallows were over the Coyote Creek Field Station (CCFS) on 18 Dec (AR), the vicinity of the Don Edwards NWR EEC on 21 Dec (AR), and Mallard Slough on 2 Jan (JL, WBr). Another sizable group of 30 – 40 Tree Swallows was along Laguna Ave in Coyote Valley on 11 and 12 Jan (WBr, OA). Flocks of 20 – 50 **Violet-green Swallows** were reported along Laguna Ave on 9 Dec (RPh), at the Sunnyvale WPCP on 11 Dec (JC, BT), CCFS on 18 Dec (AR), over Don Edwards EEC on 21 Dec (AR), Ogier Ponds on 2 Jan (SCR), and Parkway Lakes on 12 Jan (DN). Most surprising were reports of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** from three locations - one over the CCFS on 7 Dec (AR) and 18 Dec (AR, WGB, MC), another over Felt Lake on 11 Dec (PDU, AME), and another at Vasona Lake CP on 17 Dec (LM et al.). **Barn Swallows** were present throughout the period, both near the bay and further south over Parkway Lakes and Ogier Ponds, with high counts of fifteen over Mallard Slough on 2 Jan (WBr, JL) and ten at Palo Alto Baylands on 12 Jan (MDO). **House Wrens**, notable in the winter, were found in Dec and Jan - one stayed along Stevens Creek near Crittenden Lane where it was noted on 5 Dec and 19 Dec (both AR); one was along Los Alamitos Creek on 12 Dec (BB), another was at Ulistac NA on 17 Jan (ChJ) and 20 Jan (RJ); and one was at Ed Levin CP on 22 Jan (BM). Hardy **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were found in Dec but not in Jan. Singles were along Harry Rd near Santa Teresa CP on 3 Dec (JPa), Coyote Creek in the vicinity of the CCFS on 18 Dec (AR, WGB, MC), Matadero Creek near the Palo Alto FCB on 20 Dec (AR), Calero Creek near Santa Teresa CP on 27 Dec (WGB), and Calero Reservoir on 27 Dec (RCP et al.). An **American Dipper** on the Diablo Range's western slope was a nice find on the San Jose CBC on 18 Dec (KS et al.). The upper end of Arroyo Hondo east of Calaveras Reservoir is within the count circle, and this winter there has been ample water in the drainage. A **Townsend's Solitaire** was one of several frugivores finding berries in the Belgatos neighborhood of Los Gatos. The solitaire was first seen from 21 Jan (GL) through 29 Jan (m. ob.).

A small flock of **Mountain Bluebirds** visited the Sierra Rd summit on 15 Jan (DBb, KBp). Mountain Bluebirds occur about one year in three, between late Nov and early Apr. The Sierra Rd summit group was not seen again. The **Phainopepla** wintering at Guadalupe Oak Grove Park remained at least through 19 Jan (JPa, m. ob.), another was found at Ed Levin CP on 15 Jan (LSu) and 22 Jan (BM).

Wood Warbler through Goldfinch

A **Northern Waterthrush** at Ulistac NA on 20 Jan (RJ) was the first for that park, one of the best places in the county to look for vagrant warblers. A **Nashville Warbler** was at Los Capitancillos Ponds on 27 Jan (LSu). A **Yellow Warbler** at CCFS on 18 Dec was a nice find for the San Jose CBC (AR). **Palm Warblers** were found at Palo Alto FCB and at Don Edwards NWR EEC in Nov, missed in Dec, and present again in Jan. EEC sightings included one bird on 13, 15 and 24 Jan (DN, ChJ, RJ), two on 25 Jan (MMR, MJM), and one again on 26 and 27 Jan (PL, GL). One was found at Palo Alto FCB on 13 and 15 Jan (WBr, JVs, WGB). Wintering **Black-throated Gray Warbler** singles were noted at Quicksilver CP on 5 Dec (JPa), at CCFS on 18 Dec during the San Jose CBC (AR, WGB, MC), at Arastradero Preserve on 19 Dec during the Palo Alto CBC and along Stevens Creek near La Avenida on the same date (MMR, NM), and at Casa de Fruta in the south county on 30 Dec (SPk). Rounding out the warblers was a **Wilson's Warbler** at the CCFS on 7 Dec (AR). The high count of **Chipping Sparrows** at TJ Martin Park in San Jose has been only four this winter (SPv, MJM). Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were tallied during the Calero-Morgan Hill CBC on 27 Dec at a location they've spent previous winters, on Coyote Ridge (RH et al.). A **Slate-colored Fox Sparrow** was at Isabel Ranch on 2 Jan (MMR, MJM, NM, CnB). A **Swamp Sparrow** continued to be present at Palo Alto Baylands, and on 13 Jan two were found at that location (WBr, JVs). Single wintering **Slate-colored Juncos** were reported from Stevens Creek below Hwy 101 on 19 Dec (MMR, NM) and from a Palo Alto yard on 22 Jan (JY). One of the highlights of the Palo Alto CBC was a **Summer Tanager** on the Stanford campus (RFu et al.) which stayed briefly, with sightings 19 – 21 Dec (m. ob.). Another Summer Tanager was seen in the Belgatos neighborhood of Los Gatos (KB) from 17 Jan through 26 Jan (m. ob.). One to two **Western Tanagers** were reported from eight

locations, for a total of twelve tanagers (m. ob.). A **Hooded Oriole** was found near Los Capitancillos Ponds on 27 Jan (EvM). They occur during the winter in about one in every three years. While this has not been a banner year for winter finches, a large group of 239 **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were a treat at Isabel Ranch in the San Antonio Valley during the Mt Hamilton CBC on 2 Jan (MMR, MJM, NM, CnB).



Leucistic Bald Eagle by Steve Rottenborn

Observers: Ozzie Altus (OA), Philip Ball (PhB), Cynthia Berg (CnB), Bob Bolles (BB), Will Brooks (WBr), Bill Bousman (WGB), Daniel Bump (DBp), Kathi Bump (KBp), Karen Burnson (KB), Matthew Carney (MC), Juli Chamberlin (JC), Matthew Dodder (MDO), Pete Duntun (PDU), Al Eisner (AME), Leslie Flint (LFl), Rob Furrow (RFu), Garth Harwood (GHa), Derek Heins (DH), Rick Herder (RH), Bob Hirt (BH), Richard Jeffers (RJ), Chris Johnson (ChJ), Steve Johnson (SJ), Bob Juhl (BJ), Dmytro Kuzmin (DK), Garrett Lau (GL), Jasen Liu (JL), Patricia Lynch (PL), Nateri Madavan (NM), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Ginny Marshall (GnM), Eve Meier (EvM), Brooke Miller (BM), Steve Miller (SMi), Lisa Myers (LM), David Nickerson (DN), Kitty O'Neil (KON), Kathryn Parker (KP), Janna Pauser (JPa), Sergey Pavlov (SPv), William Pelletier (WP), Ryan Phillips (RPh), Sarah Polekoff (SPk), Donna Pomeroy (DnP), Doug Pomeroy (DgP), Bob Power (RCP), Alex Rinkert (AR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Edward Rooks (ER), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Debi Shearwater (DLS), Robert Shields (RSh), Kepler Stone (KS), Linda Sullivan (LSu), Bob Toleno (BT), Norman Uyeda (NU), Frank Vanslager (FV), Jason Vassallo (JVs), Pingang Wang (PW), James Yurchenco (JY), David Zittin (DZ)

Please send notice of rarities to
Pete Duntun via email at
pduntun@gmail.com

2016 Christmas Bird Count Highlights

We would like to extend a special thank you to all of the count compilers and volunteers who participated in the 2016 Christmas Bird Count. For complete CBC data, including full summaries and results, please visit our website at www.scvas.org/christmasbirdcount.

San Jose, Compiled and coordinated by Mike Azevedo

The San Jose Christmas Bird Count began for nearly all parties at about 32 degrees Fahrenheit. It was a beautiful, crisp day for birding. More than 92,000 birds of 177 species were counted starting at 5:00 AM. Many thanks to all the volunteers who contributed their time and energy to make this happen.

Swallows not always found on this count included Tree Swallows, Violet-green Swallows, Barn Swallows and a Northern Rough-winged Swallow. Swallow reports came from Calaveras Reservoir, Alviso, Sunnyvale WPCP, and Coyote Creek. Bill Bousman and Matthew Carney on the Coyote Creek Trail reported a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. One Gray Flycatcher was found by Steve Miller, Chris Johnson, and Arnel Guanlao at Sunnyvale Baylands Park. What at first seemed to be a second Gray Flycatcher turned out to be a Hammond's Flycatcher reported by Frank Vanslager at the Los Lagos Golf Course. This is still not too shabby given they are also not normally seen.

A Greater White-fronted Goose, a Ross's Goose, four Snow Geese along with another eight Chen species geese were found in Alviso, witnessed by Charles Coston, Michael Pyle, Rob Furrow, Bill Walker, Mary Wisniewski, Bruce Barrett, and Steve Tracey. 24 Cackling Geese were also found. Six Blue Winged Teal were found, three were seen by Michael Pyle and Charles Coston, one by Bruce Barrett, and two by Kirsten Holmquist. Ferruginous Hawks were seen by three different parties. Great-tailed Grackles and Lesser Yellowlegs were also seen.

Palo Alto, Compiled and coordinated by Al Eisner

In strong contrast to the dismal weather in 2015, the Palo Alto CBC on December 19, 2016 was held in dry conditions, and the total species count increased from 155 to 160 (still a few below our recent average). We missed only eight of the species found on more than 2/3 of counts over the previous 15 years. It was not a good year for irruptive passerines, with only handfuls of Varied Thrush and Pine Siskin, and no Red-breasted Nuthatches at all. On the other hand, numbers of American Crows and Eurasian Collared-Doves inched higher to new records.

There was one new species for the count: a Summer Tanager found at Stanford by Rob Furrow's party. Bill Bousman found Great-tailed Grackles for the second year in a row in the Mountain View Shoreline area. Four parties saw one or two roaming adult Bald Eagles, the third year in a row for this species (which had appeared only twice previously), while Laurie Graham and Jeff Fairclough found a Snow Goose at Bedwell-Bayfront Park, the first count-day report in a decade. Species seen on about 1/3 to 1/2 of recent counts included Lesser Yellowlegs (Mike Rogers (MR), San Francisquito Creek mouth), Northern Saw-whet Owl (Al Eisner/Pete Dunten, Los Trancos Rd.), Tree Swallow (several parties), House Wren (Alex Rinkert, Stevens Creek), two Black-throated Gray Warblers (MR at Stevens Creek and Pingang Wang at Arastradero), Swamp Sparrow (MR, Palo Alto Baylands), and the aforementioned Pine Siskins (six of seven were at Stanford, Rob Furrow et al., the other at Jasper Ridge). There was one Western Tanager in Mountain View (Gena Zolotar's party), and another in Los Altos (seen by two parties but deemed to be the same bird, Will Brooks/Jasen Liu and Pat Mahoney/Ozzie Altus). Lastly, while Pygmy Nuthatches are regular, sixteen around Los Altos were in an atypical area.

Count week turned up an additional four write-up species, including one (Caspian Tern) that would have been new to the count. Thanks are due to the eight region coordinators (Jack Cole, Mike Rogers, Bob Power, Rob Furrow, Trevor Hebert, Nancy Teater, Malia DeFelice, Garth Harwood), to all 120 participants, and to Ruth Troetschler for hosting the countdown.

Mount Hamilton, Compiled and coordinated by Bob Hirt

We had our count on January 2, 2017 and experienced cold weather throughout the day. Several areas had 2-3 inches of snow. Most of the smaller ponds were frozen and the water birds went to better areas. At least we stayed fairly dry and had only minor weather-related access problems since the roads were slushy and icy in places.

The result was a complete count. We had a very low species count coming in at only 86, with only 6,004 individual birds for the day. This was nearly the same as last year but at that time the numbers were a ten-year low. As to individual species we had a cyclical up year for Lawrence's Goldfinches with 250 tallied. One other target was the Lewis' Woodpecker and we came in at only 27 (only slightly higher than last year's number which was an eight-year low). Also very low this year were the sparrows and other finches.

Thanks to our leaders again: Bill Bousman, Mike Rogers, Mike Mammoser, Kirsten Holmquist, Mike Azevedo, Charles Coston, Sarah Estrella, and especially, of course, Bob Power who (along with Bruce Mast, Petra Kinsman and Leighton Nakata) has hiked the grueling Mule trail for many years. Our deepest thanks to Elinor Gates for hosting a marvelous compilation feast again this year and helping count the birds at the top.



Bob Power's Mule Trail Team

Calero-Morgan Hill, Compiled and coordinated by Beth Hamel

The Calero-Morgan Hill CBC was held on Dec 27, a day that was clear and sunny but on the cool side. Despite the fact that the area has received a good deal of rain this season, the effect of the many previous years of drought were perhaps evidenced in the fairly low numbers of birds counted across all species of this inland count circle. Though the count numbers were low, the diversity of species reported was still high of average at 148.

The recent rain had turned the Coyote Valley into a fine wetlands area - found among the usual Canada Goose population were Cackling Geese, Greater White-Fronted Geese, and Snow Geese. Our Loma Prieta team was saddened to see the devastation left from this past year's fire, but did find some signs of life - some of the birds that were seen there were scavenging seeds from the burnt Knobcone Pines. Land birds of note included the following: two Burrowing Owls and a Long-Eared Owl, a Red-naped Sapsucker, three swallow species, two Grasshopper Sparrows, and three Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. As is typical for this count circle, raptors were well represented throughout the circle, including five Bald Eagles, fifteen Golden Eagles, and eight Ferruginous Hawks.

2016 SANTA CLARA COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Species	SJ 12/18/16	PA 12/19/16	MH 10/2/17	Cal-MH 12/27/16	Species	SJ 12/18/16	PA 12/19/16	MH 10/2/17	Cal-MH 12/27/16	Species	SJ 12/18/16	PA 12/19/16	MH 10/2/17	Cal-MH 12/27/16
Greater White-fronted Goose	1	-	-	2	Marbled Godwit	244	591	-	-	Red-breasted Sapsucker	8	9	12	9
Snow Goose	4	1	-	2	Sandling	7	-	-	-	Nuttall's Woodpecker	72	102	25	77
Ross's Goose	1	-	-	-	Dunlin	1061	3595	-	-	Downy Woodpecker	10	14	1	16
chen sp.	13	-	-	-	Least Sandpiper	2653	959	-	-	Hairy Woodpecker	4	28	4	14
Cackling Goose	24	3	-	14	Western Sandpiper	6825	9374	-	5	Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker	143	107	42	152
Canada Goose	2248	921	2	519	peep sp	3482	14030	-	-	intergrade	1	1	-	-
Wood Duck	280	251	9	86	Short-billed Dowitcher	3	-	-	-	Northern Flicker (unidentified)	-	4	26	-
Gabwall	-	4	-	62	Long-billed Dowitcher	36	3	-	-	Pileated Woodpecker	-	-	-	670
Eurasian Wigeon	-	4	-	-	dowitcher sp	2260	3356	-	-	American Kestrel	58	18	10	60
American Wigeon	2021	2010	81	8	Wilson's Snipe	36	2	-	-	Medlin	16	10	2	4
Mallard	1539	640	89	3	Spotted Sandpiper	35	4	-	10	Peregrine Falcon	15	4	-	1
Blue-winged Teal	6	-	-	CW	Greater Yellowlegs	77	24	-	8	Prairie Falcon	4	-	-	2
Cinnamon Teal	165	12	-	-	Willer	31	845	-	-	<i>falco sp</i>	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	5709	4294	-	21	Lesser Yellowlegs	2	-	-	-	Say's Phoebe	290	291	31	219
Northern Pintail	166	313	-	-	Wilson's Phalarope	1	-	-	-	Gray Flycatcher	66	20	5	33
Green-winged Teal (American)	2910	1218	-	22	Red Phalarope	1	-	-	-	Hammond's Flycatcher	1	-	-	-
Green-winged Teal (Eurasian)	1064	2518	-	4	Bonaparte's Gull	267	35	-	-	Loggerhead Shrike	10	1	-	7
Redhead	296	152	-	-	Mew Gull	159	24	-	-	Hutton's Vireo	5	86	-	20
Ring-necked Duck	108	61	22	103	Ring-billed Gull	541	310	-	2	Stellar's Jay	61	136	12	120
Greater Scaup	498	97	-	16	Western Gull	65	7	-	36	California Scrub-Jay	252	328	274	485
Lesser Scaup	3777	2190	-	1	California Gull	4881	562	-	2516	Yellow-billed Magpie	137	-	33	77
<i>sp/ova sp</i>	187	4736	-	-	Herring Gull	5126	49	-	1103	American Raven	852	1299	4	450
Surf Scoter	5	5	-	-	Thayer's Gull	154	3	-	17	Common Loon	150	112	69	128
Buffhead	817	315	42	107	Glaucous-winged Gull	475	16	-	12	Horned Lark	5	-	-	191
Common Goldeneye	21	66	-	10	Glaucous-winged X Western Gull	7	1	-	-	Tree Swallow	294	45	-	4
Barrow's Goldeneye	4	-	-	-	gull sp	1174	251	-	849	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	1	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	19	50	1	11	Caspian Tern	87	9	-	-	Barn Swallow	190	17	-	3
Common Merganser	21	8	1	155	Foster's Tern	351	118	-	192	swallow sp	103	545	-	218
Red-breasted Merganser	48	24	-	-	Double-crested Cormorant	50	63	-	2	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	77	264	193	190
Ruddy Duck	6007	11053	63	229	American White Pelican	9	-	-	-	Oak Titmouse	483	762	49	575
duck sp	100	2	-	-	Brown Pelican	9	-	-	-	Bush-tit	1	-	-	-
California Quail	175	70	776	366	Great Blue Heron	34	15	-	29	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	123	46	133
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	-	-	-	Great Egret	101	49	-	39	White-breasted Nuthatch	61	68	1	13
Wild Turkey	138	90	-	223	Snowy Egret	107	68	-	29	Pygmy Nuthatch	-	21	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	153	73	20	76	Green Heron	6	2	-	5	Brown Creeper	1	68	1	13
Eared Grebe	8	2	-	-	Black-crowned Night-Heron	308	70	-	30	House Wren	19	1	-	7
Western Grebe	1613	106	-	18	Turkey Vulture	279	95	-	266	Pacific Wren	1	7	-	1
Clark's Grebe	31	19	7	3	White-tailed Kite	32	34	-	45	Marsh Wren	86	8	1	1
<i>anahaplorus sp</i>	14	7	-	-	Bald Eagle	8	2	-	5	Bewick's Wren	92	226	25	94
Rock Pigeon	809	563	3	1077	Northern Harrier	50	10	-	20	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	-	-	3
Band-tailed Pigeon	78	114	30	218	Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	12	-	3	American Dipper	1	-	-	-
Eurasian Collared-Dove	113	43	-	45	Cooper's Hawk	14	26	-	4	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	3	-	4
Mourning Dove	285	277	1	411	<i>cooper sp</i>	-	3	-	3	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	190	303	37	281
White-throated Swift	58	128	-	37	Red-shouldered Hawk	28	39	-	54	Wren-tit	16	84	63	28
Anna's Hummingbird	221	392	2	302	Red-tailed Hawk	226	133	-	153	Hermit Thrush	176	283	136	318
Ridge-way's Rail	2	3	-	-	Ferruginous Hawk	4	4	-	8	American Robin	46	111	33	76
Clapper Rail	37	5	1	9	<i>hires sp</i>	4	-	-	-	Varied Thrush	373	1288	127	477
Virginia Rail	67	10	3	3	Golden Eagle	23	3	-	15	California Thrasher	2	12	5	4
Sora	3	-	-	-	Barn Owl	5	3	-	9	Northern Mockingbird	77	44	-	58
Common Gallinule	8	2	-	6	Western Screech-Owl	6	12	-	8	European Starling	2004	1186	327	2235
American Coot	9015	5445	267	1436	Great Horned Owl	2	-	-	3	Cedar Waxwing	386	611	-	281
Black-necked Stilt	867	185	-	-	Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	-	-	1	Phainopepla	-	-	-	2
American Avocet	2414	2842	-	4	Belted Kingfisher	16	8	-	3	House Sparrow	115	31	-	13
Black-bellied Plover	162	1289	-	-	Lewis's Woodpecker	-	8	-	28	American Pipit	305	102	-	260
Snowy Plover	74	-	-	-	Acorn Woodpecker	-	332	-	27	House Finch	1126	547	32	579
Semipalmated Plover	5	392	-	-	Red-naped Sapsucker	213	332	-	409	Purple Finch	1	37	1	37
Killdeer	257	170	33	-						Pine Siskin	-	7	-	2
Whimbrel	48	128	-	-										
Long-billed Curlew														

Key:
 sp = species undetermined
 CW = Count Week
 SJ = San Jose; compiled by Mike Azvedo
 PA = Palo Alto; compiled by Al Essner
 MH = Mount Hamilton; compiled by Bob Hirt
 Cal-MH = Calero-Morgan Hill; compiled by Beth Hamel

Data entry and chart format by Bonnie Bedford-White; listing order has been adjusted to reflect the most recent ABA checklist, version 7.9.0 (7/12/2016).

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Shirley Wodtke
Andrew Melnick
M. Jean Fisher
Donald and Elaine Dvorak
Michael and Alma Rogers
Emily Renzel
Debra Chromczak
Annette Teng
Phil and Joan Leighton
Kathleen Lee
Ralph and Julie Schardt
Marilyn Galloway
Ann Bender
Mike Danzenbaker
Ruth Troetschler
Michael and Roxanne Laine
Louis Cogliani
Barbara Fong Jones
Ofer Zajicek
Steve and Debbie Thompson
Doria Summa
Felix and Helen Charpentier
James Heckenbach

Peregrine Falcon

(\$500 - \$999)
Enrique and Judy Klein
John and Freddy Howell
David McIntyre
Franklin and Susan Orr
Elizabeth Rizzi
James Hunter
Vrishali Wagle
Melanie and Tom O'Brien
Jack Tomlin
Brian Carr
Jeffrey and Marcia Keimer
Jean and Gregory Myers
Constance Crawford
Ernest and Jean Renzel III
Barry and Ginger Langdon-Lassagne
Benevity Community Impact Fund
J. Holley Taylor
Wade Tregaskis

Golden Eagle

(\$1000 and up)
Pete and Sue LaTourrette
Alan and Irene Adler
Wayne Krill
Sarah and Noel Fenton
Steven Patt
Ryan Funk
Thomas Grey
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Robert Hirt

SCVAS would like to extend a special thank you to Peet's Coffee & Tea in Cupertino. They have generously offered to supply the 2017 Speaker Series with coffee and accoutrements.

Thank you!!



Peet's Coffee & Tea



Attention Amazon Shoppers!!

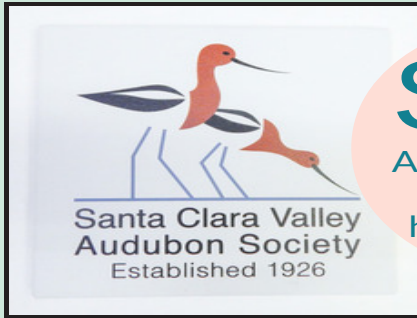
Did you know that by simply shopping at smile.amazon.com you can support SCVAS at no cost to you? AmazonSmile is an easy way to donate to SCVAS every time you make online purchases through Amazon. It's a shopping spree you can feel good about!

Nature Shop

Hours:
M-F 10AM-4PM
Sat: 10AM-2PM

Featured Items

Come visit us!



\$10

An excellent trivet for hot dishes.

**SPECIAL PROMOTION:

\$23

(\$39 VALUE)

Buy this fun Bumble Bee Feeder and get ONE 5lb bag of peanuts and ONE 5lb bag of sunflower chips FREE!!

****limited quantities****

\$9

Use these to clean binocular lenses and anything glass. Also comes in tan.



WOW!!



**Come check out the Nature Shop today!
Members get 10% off!**

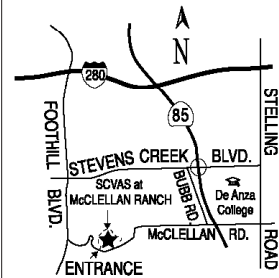
RUMMAGE SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 6TH, 10AM-3PM

It's that time of year again - Spring Cleaning Season! Out with the old and in with the new! Clean out your attic and donate those buried treasures to this fun sale! Pick up some new ones while you're here! We'll be soaking up the sun and celebrating great finds and even better prices. Donations can be dropped off at the McClellan Ranch office during office hours. See you there!

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

Phone: 408-252-3747
 Fax: 408-252-2850
 E-mail: scvas@scvas.org
www.scvas.org



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2016-2017 New Members of SCVAS

*Those who joined December 1st - January 31st.
 We look forward to a great year with your support!*

Rajagopalan Ammanur	Lynn Kristy	Linda Smith
Elaine Arora	Mark Leonard	Ed Stedman
Jessica Belsky	Carol Lillig	Doria Summa
Heather Clemens	Phil Lindsay	Peter Svensson
Karelle Cornwell	Alice Mansell	Kent Werges
Joan Cummings	Kathleen McMullen	Andrea Wuenschel
Ellen Davis	Susan Norman	Bill Zabor
James Goodkind	Alison Pena	
Stacy Goss	Jenni Peters	
Raymond Grzan	Patricia Scanlan	
Gary Harris	James Scarff	
Patricia Jordan	Laura Seaman	

And thank you to those who renewed their membership!

Go Paperless!

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

- Save resources - eNewsletters save trees, postage, fuel (and more)!
- No waiting for the mail - get your newsletter up to 2 weeks sooner!
- Get a FREE SCVAS pin!

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

STAFF

Executive Director

Ralph Schardt, rschardt@scvas.org,
 (408) 252-3748

Education Specialist

Kymberly Sugano, programs@scvas.org,
 (408) 252-3740

Environmental Advocate

Shani Kleinhaus, shani@scvas.org,
 (650) 868-2114

Office Manager

Tracy Neher, scvas@scvas.org,
 (408) 252-3747

Outreach Coordinator

Kelly Alfrey, outreach@scvas.org,
 (408) 627-7172

Burrowing Owl Conservation

Sandra Menzel, sandmenzel@gmail.com,
 (831) 431-3301

Office Fax (408) 252-2850
 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

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

Details available on the SCVAS website.

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

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

OFFICERS

President	Treasurer
Bob Hirt	Peter LaTourrette
Vice President	Secretary
Diane Hart	Joan Leighton

DIRECTORS

Peter Hart	'15-'18	Marlene Macek	'16-'18
Tom Grey	'15-'18	Mike Armer	'16-'18
Vivek Khanzode	'14-'17	Don McDougall	'16-'18
Gabrielle Feldman	'15-'17		