



# THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

July-August 2018

## Change is Happening - What Can You Do?

by *Ralph Schardt, Executive Director*

So you voted last month, now what? California proudly said, “yes” to Proposition 68 to support parks, and San Jose said, “no” to Measure B and “yes” to Measure C. It’s clear that Californians care about wildlife and open spaces, and we are working together towards making a positive impact on the environment. But our work isn’t over yet. Under the current administration, crucial environmental protections such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) have faced a continuous barrage of attacks. Multiple bills (H.R. 717 and H.R. 1274, for example) seek to weaken the ESA, while the recently proposed H.R. 4239 would eliminate penalties for “incidental” bird deaths under the MBTA. This article’s word count is too limiting to enumerate the latest missteps of the Environmental Protection Agency. In such a harsh climate, many environmentalists are finding themselves at a loss for what to do. After all of the canvassing, calling, letter writing, and voting is said and done, we implore you to look no further than your own backyard (patio, balcony, stoop, you get the picture) to continue the fight for our environment.

In our ever-growing urban landscape, backyards and private outdoor spaces are becoming increasingly important habitat for birds and wildlife. “Birdscaping” helps provide food, habitat, water, and a place to nest and breed for both resident and migratory bird species. A properly designed birdscape will not only attract birds, but will also act as a haven for butterflies and honeybees. This is much more than a fun DIY project – turning your backyard or outdoor space into a native plant and wildlife sanctuary could create a natural oasis for local wildlife and inspire your human neighbors to do the same. For more information on how to start your own at-home conservation projects, check out [scvas.org/athome](http://scvas.org/athome). Below are a few ways to “birdscape” your backyard.



*Image from National Audubon Society and the Natural Resources Conservation Service*

- **Plant native plants.** Native plants are not only easier to care for, they also provide food and shelter to birds and beneficial insects. Search the National Audubon Society native plant database by using the search bar under “Bird-Friendly Backyards” at [scvas.org/athome](http://scvas.org/athome).
- **Provide food and water with bird feeders and baths.** Offer a variety of food to attract a more diverse bird community. Stop by the SCVAS Nature Shop to check out different types of seed. Birdbaths can be as simple as a plant saucer, but for a more attractive option we recommend checking out Los Gatos Birdwatcher.
- **Install nestboxes and stop using pesticides.** If cavity-nesting species frequent your yard or neighborhood, consider installing nestboxes to provide additional habitat. You will have the chance to provide homes to generations of birds and can contribute data to the Cavity Nesters Recovery Program – more details at [scvas.org/CNRP](http://scvas.org/CNRP). These birds also act as a natural pest control, so you can avoid using harmful pesticides to control insects around your home.
- **Keep cats indoors and decorate windows.** Outdoor cats kill millions of birds each year. Keep your furry friends inside and both the cats and the birds will be safe. Window strikes are another preventable threat to birds – using decals and keeping feeders away from windows will help birds stay away.

## July-August Field Trips

(Full details are also available online at [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org))

Please carpool if possible; bring binoculars, field guides, layered clothing. **LO**=Lunch optional; **RC** = Heavy rain cancels; **NF** = No facilities available; **KF-AA** = Kid friendly, all ages; **KF-10+** = 10 years and older; **KF-14+** = 14 years and older

### **\*\*Please note: Online registration is required for all field trips.\*\***

Please RSVP by going to [scvas.org](http://scvas.org) (look for Calendar, then Field Trips), then find your trip and follow the easy registration directions. A confirmation email will follow. If you have any questions, please call Kelsey Frey at (408) 252-3740 or email at [programs@scvas.org](mailto:programs@scvas.org).

#### **Wednesday, July 4, 12:00PM**

##### **City of Sunnyvale Landfill**

One hour. **Leader:** Allen Royer. Contact landfill coordinator, Silviana Ruiz, with questions at (408) 730-7545. **Directions:** Donald M. Somers Water Pollution Control Plant, turn into Borregas and then turn left at the T intersection. Meet under the pepper tree across from the Portapotty. **Difficulty:** Birding geared toward beginners. **Notes:** Bring binoculars; loaners available. **RC, KF-10+**

#### **Saturday, July 7, 8:00AM**

##### **Vasona Lake County Park**

Half day. **Leader:** Chris Johnson, (831) 601-8260. **Directions:** From Hwy 17 exit Lark Ave, go west to University Ave and either park on University Ave (free parking) or make a left on Pepper Tree Lane and enter the park. Turn into first parking lot. Meet at the Peppertree Group Picnic Area. **Difficulty:** Easy walking. **Notes:** Gate opens 8:00AM. Entrance fee is \$6 without county park pass. **KF-AA**

#### **Sunday, July 8, 8:00AM**

##### **Stevens Creek County Park**

Half day. **Leader:** Dave Zittin, (408) 515-7104. **Directions:** From I-280 in Cupertino take Foothill Expwy exit south and follow Foothill Blvd south (becomes Stevens Canyon Rd) for 2.1 miles. Turn left into first park entrance and meet in the Chestnut Picnic Area parking lot. **Difficulty:** Moderately strenuous walk looking for migrants and local breeding birds in riparian area. **Notes:** \$6 vehicle entry. **RC**

#### **Saturday, July 14, 8:00AM**

##### **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. **RC, KF-14+**

#### **Sunday, July 22, 9:00AM**

##### **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 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, KF-10+**

#### **Saturday, July 28, 8:00AM**

##### **Sanborn County Park**

##### **Outdoor Photography Trip**

Half day. **Leader:** Ralph Schardt, (408) 624-7845. **Directions:** Either take Stevens Creek Canyon Rd, Hwy 85 S, or Pierce Rd to get on Hwy 9. From Hwy 9, take Sanborn Rd. Follow the road and meet in the large parking lot - "Youth Science Institute" on Google Maps. We'll explore the Redwood/Douglas Fir tree lines for interesting birds to photograph. **Highlights:** Possible Western Tanager, Pileated Woodpecker, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle and other predatory birds. Beginning to novice photography experience is welcome. **Notes:** Entrance fee required. Charge your camera batteries! **LO, KF-AA**

#### **Wednesday, August 1, 12:00PM**

##### **City of Sunnyvale Landfill**

One hour. **Leader:** Allen Royer. Contact landfill coordinator, Silviana Ruiz, with questions at (408) 730-7545. See write-up for July 4. **RC, KF-10+**

#### **Saturday, August 4, 8:00AM**

##### **Ulistac Natural Area**

Half day. **Leader:** Chris Johnson, (831) 601-8260. **Directions:** From Hwy 237 take Great America Pkwy south for 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. **RC, KF-AA**

#### **Saturday, August 11, 8:00AM**

##### **Año Nuevo State Park**

Half day. **Leader:** Norm Kikuchi, (831) 251-0666. **Directions:** The

entrance is along Hwy 1 about 30 miles south of Half Moon Bay or 20 miles north of Santa Cruz. Meet at the far (south) end of the parking lot. **Highlights:** Possible Bank Swallow, Marbled Murrelet, Black Swift, and early returning shorebirds. **Difficulty:** 3-4-mile walk (half in sand), fog, bright sun, and wind. **Notes:** \$10 per car parking fee. Bring a scope, lunch, water, and dress in layers. **LO, KF-10+**

#### **Sunday, August 12, 8:00AM**

##### **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, and turn left past winery entrance into preserve parking lot. **Difficulty:** Moderately strenuous walk past an old orchard, seasonal pond, and oak woodlands. **KF-AA**

#### **Sunday, August 19, 9:00AM**

##### **Charleston Slough**

Half day. **Leader:** Allen Royer, (408) 288-7768. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 in Mountain View take San Antonio Rd north to Terminal Way parking area. Meet at entrance nearest San Antonio Rd. **Notes:** For beginning birders but all are encouraged to attend. Bring your spotting scope and a friend. **KF-10+**

#### **Sunday, August 26, 9:00AM**

##### **Grant Ranch County Park**

##### **Outdoor Photography/Nature Hike**

Half day. **Leader:** Ralph Schardt, (408) 624-7845. **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 lot on the left (do not enter Main Park Entrance on the right). **Highlights:** Freshwater ducks, oak woodland birds, and possible Golden Eagle. **Difficulty:** Includes a moderate to slightly strenuous 1.5- 2-mile walk. **Notes:** Park entrance fee required for last half of trip. Beginning photographers welcome. Charge your camera batteries! **LO, KF-AA**



## Conservation Corner: What Our Environmental Advocacy Team is Working On...

by Shani Kleinhaus and Mackenzie Mossing

### Bye Bye Measure B!

As we write this we are celebrating a huge victory for San Jose and Coyote Valley. The proponents behind Measure B failed to fool voters with their \$6 million-dollar deceptive campaign, and the measure was voted down after a long battle that staked the community against deep-pocketed developers. At the same time, Measure C passed with a wide margin – protecting Coyote Valley from residential sprawl. This is truly a tale of David versus Goliath and, as is usually the case, David won! We wish to thank all of our supporters, hard working volunteers, and San Jose's leaders for uniting together on this important issue. We are ready to continue the fight to protect Coyote Valley's birds and wildlife, and we hope this was a lesson learned that San Jose's open space is not up for grabs.



Great Egret in Coyote Valley by Chuq Von Rospach

### The Plight of Burrowing Owls

In the past decade, Burrowing Owl populations in the South Bay plummeted. Despite efforts to reverse the trend, surveys show that fewer than 25 pairs still breed in Santa Clara County, and that number continues to fall. If immediate action is not taken, it is likely that these charismatic critters will be extirpated from our landscape. SCVAS is working diligently with biologists, Burrowing Owl experts, government agencies, and local jurisdictions to implement emergency actions to save our last Burrowing Owls.

- Our environmental advocates met with the Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Charlton Bonham, in early May, and presented him with survey results showing a rapid decline in Santa Clara County's population of breeding Burrowing Owls. We requested CDFW's help in facilitating emergency measures to save the owls. Mr. Bonham requested that the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency, local Burrowing Owl experts, and CDFW

collaborate to identify the priority actions necessary to save the breeding population. Since then, we have been working with the Habitat Agency to help present their top priorities, including overwinter rearing, followed by the release of Burrowing Owls.

- In late May, the New York Times released an article focused on the conflict between feral cats and Burrowing Owls at Shoreline Park: [nytimes.com/2018/05/26/technology/google-cats-owls.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/26/technology/google-cats-owls.html). We are now collaborating with Google to find an acceptable solution for the cats. At the same time, we are also advocating with the City of Mountain View to install cat-proof fencing to protect owls at Shoreline Park. The conversations we are engaged in are challenging, and finding short- and long-term solutions that are suitable for all stakeholders involved may take time. We appreciate all of your support and understanding.



Burrowing Owl by Peter Hart

### Protecting Nesting Birds

The Emily Renzel Marsh in Palo Alto includes an artificial freshwater wetland that has been used to polish effluents from the water treatment plant for over thirty years. It also creates a sanctuary for birds and other wildlife. In recent years, flow through the marsh has slowed to a stop as sediment and reeds have filled the pond. The City is now dredging and making repairs to the pond's berms to stop leaks and prevent freshwater from entering and harming the nearby saltwater slough. Although we were promised that the vegetation would not be disturbed until after the nesting season, we observed equipment depositing soil on top of the reeds and causing great distress to nesting birds. We immediately jumped into action and again asked the City of Palo Alto to stop removing or covering reeds with dirt until the nesting season was over. The City agreed. At this time, the pond is drying out. Some work is still being done around the pond, with the supervision of a qualified biologist monitoring to keep nesting birds from harm. Six nests (Killdeer, Black Phoebe, and Marsh Wrens) were identified and are being protected.



## SCVAS Volunteer Award Honorees

Each year SCVAS staff members have the tough job of picking a select few volunteers to honor for their inspiring work to support our chapter. We owe our success to these and many more incredible volunteers, and we are honored to work with all of them. Thank you! Below are the 2018 Volunteer Honorees.



**Nature Shop Volunteers (left to right)- Jack Cole, Colleen Cunningham, Donna Sadowy, Christine Wolfe (not pictured)**  
I cannot pick one, so I have chosen all four of our Saturday volunteers to acknowledge. They have each made my job so easy as they come in without issues or complaints and do their jobs and I never have to worry. They are like clockwork and I cannot express how appreciative I am for their individual and group commitment. It has been a pleasure working with each of them (however brief this has been) these past two years. Jack gets an extra 'kudo' for repairing the front door and screen door for us! Thank you all! - Tracy Neher



### Education Volunteer - Linda Sue Johnson

Linda grew up swimming, boating, and ice skating along the banks of the Tippecanoe River in Indiana and has since learned that the "cranes" her father used to point out were actually Great Blue Herons (although she never told her father that). Linda discovered SCVAS three decades ago at a festival table, and we are so thankful that she did! She's been an asset at outreach events (especially Wildlife & Harvest Day), and as a Wetlands Discovery Program docent, both in the classroom and outdoors leading field trips. She has participated in many Birdathons, seasonal counts, prepped and built nest boxes with youngsters, and so much more. We are always happy to see Linda - her commitment to environmental education and making a difference shines through her brilliant smile and can-do attitude. Thank you so very much, Linda! - Kelsey Frey

### Education Volunteer - Atul Chaudhari

Atul's passion for bird watching began in Mumbai more than ten years ago, and he continues to follow that passion throughout California. Atul volunteers with various organizations in the Bay Area as an Environmental Advocate, and we are so thankful to have his help here at SCVAS! He loves to educate kids about California birds, native plants and nature, and manages time from work to lead groups of curious young minds for the Wetlands Discovery Program. He has also helped out with other events and bird walks, and always with enthusiasm! We appreciate all of your support, Atul! - Kelsey Frey



### Outreach Volunteer - Tomo Yoshino

Tomo Yoshino is an outstanding nest box monitor for the Cavity Nesters Recovery Program. While only in his second season, he has created an online map of his twenty nest boxes at Rancho San Antonio (adopted from Ulf Stauber and Joan Loney), and thoroughly photographs and documents the birds in his boxes. Tomo's passion for birds reaches beyond CNRP - he is currently completing art pieces centered around bird evolution for his AP Studio Art course, and



recently gave a presentation on CNRP for a Spanish class project. We are inspired by Tomo's passion and dedication and suspect the birding world will see a lot more from him in the future! Thanks, Tomo! - Kelly Alfrey



## Volunteer Awards *cont'd*

### Outreach Volunteer - Chuq Von Rospach

Chuq is passionate about photography and was first drawn to birding as a way to better understand the birds he was photographing. He has a strong love of the Central Valley wildlife refuges that are habitat to winter migrants like Sandhill Cranes, and he works to help others understand the importance of those areas to the incredible birds and other wildlife that inhabit them. Chuq has been a volunteer with SCVAS for over 3 years and has maintained the South Bay Birds mailing list for the last 15 years ([siliconvalleybirding.org](http://siliconvalleybirding.org)). He is also chair of the SCVAS Outreach and Birdathon committees. Thanks for all of your hard work, Chuq! – Ralph Schardt



### Advocacy Volunteer - Keith Wandry

With endless patience and humor, Keith engages in conservation efforts from the ground up - walking door to door on campaigns, leading children and adults in bioblitzes and nature exploration events, volunteering as Chair of the Environmental Action Committee, and speaking at numerous public meetings throughout the county on topics that make a difference to birds. When he's not busy coordinating nature-oriented programs for the City of Cupertino or taking breathtaking pictures of birds at McClellan Ranch, you can find Keith in our office cracking jokes and brightening our day. Thank you, Keith, for all that you do to inspire a love and appreciation for nature in people of all ages and for volunteering your time to speak up for birds! - Shani Kleinhaus and Mackenzie Mossing

## SCVAS Classes

### Outdoor Photography with an Intro to Digiscoping

**Dates:** Thurs. 7/12 and Tues. 8/21    **Time:** 9:00-11:00AM

**Location:** McClellan Ranch, Cupertino - Meet at SCVAS

**Cost:** Free! for members, \$15 non-members

**Note:** Rain cancels, with refund or credit for future classes.

**Topic:** Explore outdoor photography opportunities at McClellan Ranch with our Executive Director, Ralph Schardt. We will review outdoor photography equipment and how to take advantage of natural light. We will also introduce a different way to do macro photography, so bring your telephoto lens if you have one. A brief introduction to digiscoping will follow. Wear layers and clothing appropriate for an easy hike on level, but unpaved trails.

*For full descriptions and to register, visit our website at [scvas.org](http://scvas.org) and find the class in our calendar. Our complete Events Calendar can be found on page 12.*

## Young Audubon

For more information and to register, visit [scvas.org](http://scvas.org) and click "Kid's Corner," then "Young Audubon."

### Family Egret Outing @ Google Campus Sunday, July 15; 10:00AM-12:00PM

Join us for a visit to one of the largest egret rookeries in the Bay Area. Snowy Egrets, Great Egrets, and even Black-crowned Night Herons nest here – come and see all the action for yourself!



Photos by Mackenzie Mossing

### Elkhorn Slough Safari

Saturday, August 25; 10:45AM-1:15PM

SCVAS and Elkhorn Slough Safari will be bringing you the trip of a lifetime. Join us for a boat ride along the slough, where we hope to see a diverse group of wildlife and are sure to have a great time! \*Children must be at least 3 years of age and accompanied by an adult.\*



# Field Notes

(April-May 2018)

by Pete Dunten

## Geese through Terns

A solo **Greater White-fronted Goose** lingered at Vasona Lake CP through 15 May (JVs). The last **Eurasian Wigeon** report was on 24 Apr from Pond A2E (DA). Two **Common Loons** passed through on their way north, one stopping at Lexington Reservoir on 13 Apr (RPh) and another at Chesbro Reservoir from 15 – 17 Apr (PDU et al., m. ob.). **Swainson's Hawks** are again nesting in Coyote Valley, after returning in early April. One was in Coyote Valley by 3 Apr (MJM), and two were reported by 10 Apr (SPv). One has also been seen frequenting the south county near San Felipe Rd, beginning on 31 Mar (AJ) and continuing through 8 May (SPv). The same individual may be responsible for sightings over Gilroy High School on 17 Apr (JMn et al.), along Bloomfield Ave on 1 May (DLS), and over the Gilroy SCRWA on 11 May (WP, KON). Migrants included one south of Anderson Reservoir on 7 Apr (SCR), twenty over a ridge south of Mount Hamilton on 9 Apr (JSm), and one over Ed Levin CP on 15 Apr (RFu). Large groups on migration are common in the Central Valley but quite unusual here. Fifteen Swainson's Hawks were tallied on a single day in May of 2013, and looking for a higher count going back in the records takes one to the year 1927. The spring passage of phalaropes was marked by relatively low numbers in the south bay. The first **Wilson's Phalarope** was at Alviso on 21 Apr (LL) and the high count this spring was eleven on 5 May at the Sunnyvale WPCP (TB). Two **Red-necked Phalaropes** were on Alviso Salt Pond A14 on 20 Apr (WGB), and the high count was seven on 23 Apr in the impoundment east of Alviso Salt Pond A12 (GL). The **Glaucous Gull** present at Alviso Salt Pond A16 since early March remained through 29 Apr (MMR, MJM). The **Caspian Tern** colony on the islands at Alviso Salt Pond A16 organized itself without help from decoys or recorded calls this

year. A healthy count of 194 terns was made on 27 May (MJM, MMR, RJ). A **Black Tern** briefly foraged at Alviso Salt Pond A12 on 12 May (RL). They are missed more often than not during spring migration; most of our records are of birds on fall passage.

one to two were at Ed Levin CP on 18 and 20 Apr (RPh, ChJ), and one was south of Anderson Reservoir on 22 Apr (SCR). Olive-sided Flycatchers returned in mid-April; one was at Picchetti Ranch OSP on 14 Apr (GL, WP, KON, SPz, PL) and one was at



Calliope Hummingbird by Garrett Lau

## Sapsuckers through Kingbirds

Adding to the tally of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** reported this spring, one was found at the Heintz OSP in Los Gatos on 2 Apr (RWR). All three of the birds found this spring were immature sapsuckers. It's hard to know whether these were wintering birds or migrants given how easy it is to overlook sapsuckers. A **Nighthawk** seen briefly at the junction of Mines and Del Puerto Canyon Roads on 12 May could have been either a Lesser or Common Nighthawk (fide BMA). A **Black Swift** on migration was over Monte Bello OSP on 8 May (GHa). The first **Vaux's Swift** of the year was spotted over Shoreline Lake on 31 Mar (SPv et al.). **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** came back to feeders in Willow Glen on 15 Apr, when both a male and female were seen (BM). **Calliope Hummingbirds** passed through the county between 13 and 22 Apr, with one to two at the Stile Ranch Trail delighting photographers during that period (JPa, m. ob.). Another was at Blue Oak Ranch Preserve in the Diablo Range on 17 Apr (DR),

Loma Prieta on 15 Apr (AR, NL). This spring yielded a bounty of migrant Empidonax flycatchers. Single **Hammond's Flycatchers** were found at four locations. One was along Old Oak Glen Road between 10 and 17 Apr (MJM, m. ob.), one was at Rancho Cañada del Oro between 14 and 16 Apr (MDo et al.), one was in Stevens Creek CP at the Cooley Picnic Area on 18 Apr (PL, EvM), and two were south of Anderson Reservoir on 22 Apr (SCR). A **Dusky Flycatcher** was an excellent find on 24 Apr near Gilroy Hot Springs and Canada Roads (MJM). They are about equally likely in spring and fall. A **Gray Flycatcher** found along the Los Gatos Creek Trail near Meridian Ave on 4 May also stayed for only one day (LL). A pair of **Cassin's Kingbirds** returned to the eucalyptus trees along San Felipe Road on 3 Apr (MJM). This location in the south county has sightings dating back to 1998.

## Martins through Goldfinches

There was one report of **Purple Martins** on migration away from their known summer haunts in the Santa



## Field Notes *cont'd*

Cruz Mountains. Three were spotted south of Anderson Reservoir on 22 Apr together with swallows (SCR). The first **Swainson's Thrushes** of the spring were singles at Old Oak Glen Ave on 15 Apr (STu) and at the Coyote Creek Field Station (CCFS) on 29 Apr (DWn). **Nashville Warblers** transited the county between 14 Apr and 5 May. Of the twelve locations reporting Nashvilles, only one was in the lowlands, a bird at CCFS on 21 Apr (DT). The earliest arrival on 14 Apr was at Picchetti Ranch OSP (GL, WP, SPz, DPe). The high count was eight south of Anderson Reservoir on 22 Apr (SCR). Single **MacGillivray's Warblers** were found at six locations between 16 Apr and 21 May. The first arrivals were at Blue Oak Ranch Reserve on 16 Apr (DR) and south of Anderson Reservoir on 5 May (SCR). The other MacGillivray's were all at lowland locations - along the Los Gatos Creek Trail near Meridian Ave on 7 May (RPh), at CCFS on 16 May (DWn, WH), at Penetencia Creek Park on 20 May (MSm), and at Santa Clara University on 20 and 21 May (JVs). A **Northern Parula**, a

spring vagrant from the east, was quite a treat at Mitchell Park from 22 May through 25 May (GZ, m. ob.). It was the eleventh recorded in the county, and only two have stayed for a longer period. The male announced himself with two different song types broadcast from the treetops. Another accomplished vocalist, the **Yellow-breasted Chat**, was heard at West Valley College on 8 and 9 May (JVs, RPh). A second was singing at the pond on Del Puerto Canyon Road at the eastern edge of the county on 13 May (BMa et al.). Flirting with the county line on the west side of the county at Loma Prieta, a **Black-chinned Spar-**

**row** visited Santa Clara County on 21 May (WP). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** found at Mission City Memorial Park in San Jose on 19 Apr was only the second spring record for the county (JVs). Its unique song was enjoyed by many during the duration of its stay through 23 Apr. **White-throated Sparrows** are typically gone by the end of the first week of May. The latest reports this year were of three at

over Monte Bello OSP on 30 May was one of the few recent sightings (GHa). **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were widespread. Notable counts included eight along San Felipe Road on 8 Apr (JVs), six at Palm Ave and Lantz Dr in Coyote Valley on 18 Apr (JPa), eleven at the northern border of Pacheco SP on 4 May (PDU), six at Monte Bello OSP on 6 May (JVs, KC), and six at J Grant CP on 6 May (BTh).



Peter E. Hart

Northern Parula by Peter Hart

Ulistac NA on 4 May (DN) and a remarkably late individual along the Los Gatos Creek Trail near Meridian Ave on 29 May (JPa). A calling **Summer Tanager** at Vasona Lake CP on 11 Apr was not found again (STe, JSm). The small marsh at Ulistac NA hosted a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** on 9 May (RJ). An **Evening Grosbeak** flying over Coyote Creek near Morgan Hill on 8 Apr was the last report for this winter (SCR). The last invasion of Evening Grosbeaks occurred in the winter of 2015-2016, followed by two winters with few grosbeaks in the area. 2015-2016 was also the last winter **Red Crossbills** invaded; one flying

**Observers:** Ozzie Altus (OA), Dorian Anderson (DA), Terry Blows (TB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Kevin Corrigan (KC), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Pete Dunten (PDU), Rob Furrow (RFu), Garth Harwood (GHa), William Hoppes (WH), Alvaro Jaramillo (AJ), Richard Jeffers (RJ), Chris Johnson (ChJ), Garrett Lau (GL), Nicholas Levandosky (NL), Raymond Liao (RL), Louise Liou (LL), Patricia Lynch (PL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Jeff Manker (JMn), Bruce Mast (BMa), Eve Meier (EvM), Brooke Miller (BM), David Nickerson (DN), Kitty O'Neil (KON), Janna Pauser (JPa), Sergey Pavlov (SPv), William Pelletier (WP), Don Pendleton (DPe), Sergio Perez (SPz), Ryan Phillips

(RPh), David Rankin (DR), Bob Reiling (RWR), Alex Rinkert (AR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Debi Shearwater (DLS), Marc Simmel (MSm), Jeff Smith (JSm), David Tattoni (DT), Scott Terrill (STe), Brent Thomas (BTh), Steve Tucker (STu), Jason Vassallo (JVs), Dan Wenny (DWn), Gina Zolotar (GZ)

Please send notice of rarities to Pete Dunten via email at [pdunten@gmail.com](mailto:pdunten@gmail.com)

# SCVAS Birdathon 2018 - Final Results

by Carolyn Knight, Birdathon Coordinator

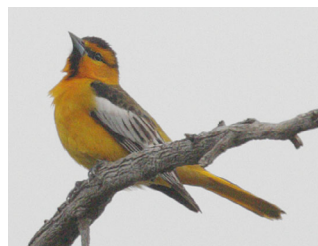
Thank you to all of our incredible supporters who brought in over **\$37,000** for this year's Birdathon! 72 participants braved cold rain and hot sun to embark on birding journeys in support of SCVAS conservation and education programs. We had eighteen birding teams, including two Big Sit Teams, seven 4-hour teams, and nine 24-hour teams.

11 participants raised over \$1,000 each, with Linda Sue Johnson, Steven Patt, Renée Polizotto, David McIntyre, and Barry Langdon-Lassagne placing in the top 5 fundraisers, respectively. Team efforts were just as impressive - Bob Hirt's Rock Wrens raised over \$9,000 and won the 24-hour category for fundraising, while Vivek Khanzode's Fledglings team took the 4-hour category with over \$4,000 raised. In our Big Sit category, the Sitting Ducks led by Chuq von Rospach brought in over \$3,000.

It wasn't just about the donations - participants saw an impressive number of birds as well. In the 24-hour category, the Varied Twitchers, led by Mike Rogers, took the prize with 152 species seen in one day. In the 4-hour category, Vivek Khanzode's Fledglings team saw the most species (107), while the Sitting Ducks, led by Chuq von Rospach, won the Big Sit category with 50 species. The "Best Bird" seen throughout the competition was spotted by the Rock Wrens - an out-of-season Common Loon in full breeding plumage.

SCVAS is especially grateful to all of our sponsors who donated prizes in support of this year's Birdathon. We would like to extend many thanks to our Golden Eagle

sponsors who donated prizes valued at \$600 or more: Bob Hirt and Ralph Schardt; our Great Egret sponsors who contributed prizes worth between \$250 and \$599: Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris, Los Gatos Birdwatcher, Tracy and Bob Neher, and Cooper-Garrod Estate Vineyards; and all of our Western Bluebird sponsors who provided prizes worth up to \$249.



A male Bullock's Oriole showing off its beautiful bright plumage. Their arrival is a sure sign that spring has sprung! Photo by Tom Grey.



The Piratical Flycatchers found this Spotted Towhee hopping about and searching for mischief! Photo by Barry Langdon-Lassagne.

I am immensely grateful for the Birdathon Committee's guidance and support: Chuq Von Rospach, Michael Armer, Bob Hirt, Steven Patt, Ralph Schardt, and Kelsey Frey. Thank you for your energy and tireless dedication!

And of course, Birdathon would be nothing without our participants and sponsors. This fundraiser is crucial to maintaining SCVAS education and conservation programs, and we thank you for your support. Happy birding and we'll see you next year!

## Birdathon Prize Sponsors

SCVAS is pleased to promote our generous prize sponsors who helped make our Birdathon fundraiser so successful in raising money for our conservation and youth environmental education programs.

Please visit [www.scvas.org/birdathon](http://www.scvas.org/birdathon) if you would like to learn more.

### Golden Eagle Sponsors

(donated over \$600 in prizes or support)

Bob Hirt

Ralph Schardt



CHEESEMAN'S  
ECOLOGY SAFARIS

COOPER-GARROD  
Estate Vineyards



ONEHOPE



LOS GATOS  
Birdwatcher

Cooper-Garrod Estate Vineyards

### Western Bluebird Sponsors

(donated up to \$249 in prizes or support)

Chuq Von Rospach

Steven Patt

Children's Discovery Museum

ONEHOPE Wine

Jack Cole

Julio Mulero & Renée Polizotto

Deep Cliff Golf Course



# SCVAS Birdathon 2018 - Teams

\* Denotes Team Leader

## Almaden Eagles

Kirsten Holmquist  
Janna Pauser  
Ann Verdi\*



*This stunning Western Kingbird struck a pose and got ready for its close up for our Board Not Bored team!  
Photo by Tom Grey.*

## Board Not Bored

Michael Armer  
Tom Grey  
Diane & Peter Hart  
Bob Hirt\*



*The Cupertino Creek Cruisers cruised along the Steven's Creek Trail and spotted 47 species during their Birdathon.  
Photo by Deborah Jamison.*

## Cupertino Creek Cruisers

Gail Bower  
Ann Hepenstal  
Deborah Jamison\*  
Patricia Kenny  
Vineet Panchbhaiyye  
Steven Patt  
Suprita Shankar

## Deja-vireos

Ryan P. Bourbour  
Andrew Bradshaw  
Ryan Phillips\*  
Robert Shield



*The Fledglings had a very long but rewarding day! Photo by Vivek Khanzode.*

## The Fledglings

Ozzie Altus  
Kieran Mackey  
Leena, Vivek\*,  
Mitali, and Anaya  
Khanzode

## Mean Green Birding Machines

Robert Furrow\*  
Diane & Peter Hart  
Leena & Vivek  
Khanzode  
Bill Walker  
Mary Wisnewski



*Binoculars up! The Persistent Picidae pursued plenty of pretty birds. Photo by Ralph Schardt.*

## Persistent Picidae

Juliette Bryson  
Harold Fukuma  
Eve Meier  
Greta Muller  
Lisa Myers\*  
Ralph Schardt



*The Piratical Flycatchers witnessed this amazing encounter during their Birdathon! Photo by Barry Langdon-Lassagne.*

## The Piratical Flycatchers

Barry\* & Virginia  
Langdon-Lassagne

## Rock Wrens

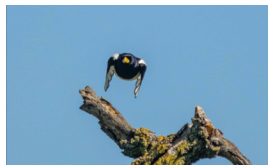
Pete Duntun  
Bob Hirt\*  
James Hunter  
Calvin Lou  
Michael Mammoser  
David McIntyre  
John Rice-Cameron

## Saint Anthony Ranchers

Megan George  
Jim & Kathy Johnson  
Linda Sue Johnson  
Jim Liskovec\*  
Joan Loney  
Donna Meyer  
Mary Murphy  
George Schuttinger  
Catherine Trejo

## The Sharpies

Doug & Gail Cheeseman  
Garrett Lau  
Bill Pelletier\*  
Sergio Perez



*A Yellow-billed Magpie hurtles towards the camera. Photo by Chuq Von Rospach of Shrikes of Joy.*

## Shrikes of Joy

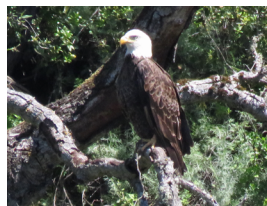
Steve McHenry  
Chuq Von Rospach\*  
Ralph Schardt  
Carolyn Straub  
Nancy Teater  
Bill Walker  
Mary Wisnewski



*The Sitting Ducks were treated to a lovely view! Photo by Chuq Von Rospach.*

## Sitting Ducks

Julio Mulero  
Renée Polizotto  
Chuq Von Rospach\*



*The Ultrabirders saw some ultra cool birds (like this Bald Eagle!) Photo by Steven Patt.*

## Stevens Creek

Ultrabirders  
Steven Patt\*

## Tax-on-o-me

Ralph Schardt\*

## Varied Twitchers

Michael Mammoser  
Mike Rogers\*



*The Wrong Terns only made one wrong turn, but still saw this amazing juvenile Bald Eagle! Photo by Garrett Lau.*

## Wrong Terns

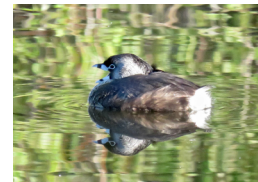
Kelly Alfrey  
Joanne Ball Artis  
Atul Chaudhari

Kelsey Frey  
Elaine Gould\*  
Diane Hart  
Ginny & Jerry Kaminski  
Carolyn Knight  
Garrett Lau  
Jim Meikrantz  
Barbara Millin  
Allen Royer

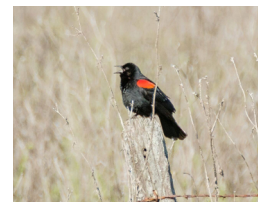
## More Great Photos!



*This beautiful Downy Woodpecker was seen and photographed by Atul Chaudhari of the Wrong Terns.*



*Steven Patt snapped a great photo of this Pied-billed Grebe in all its breeding plumage glory during his Birdathon, the Ultrabirders.*



*This lovely Red-winged Blackbird was captured on camera by Chuq Von Rospach of Shrikes of Joy.*

# Friends of SCVAS

Gifts received April 1st through May 31st, 2018

## Gift (Up to \$99)

Joy Alamar-Pulvers  
Kelly Alfrey  
Michael Armer  
Robert Baker  
Joanne Ball Artis  
Diane Bates  
Cynthia Berg  
Raju Bhupatiraju  
Renate Birwe  
Tracey Borgfeldt  
Gail Bower  
William & Ann Boylan  
John & Rebecca Bradley  
Rose Brown  
Juliette Bryson  
Marlene Burak  
Tenika Calhoun  
Patsy Camp  
Russ & Marilyn Carr  
Anurag Chaudhry  
Children's Discovery Museum  
Julie Clark  
Martha Clark  
Jack Cole  
Irene Cortinaz  
Enrico Croce  
Colleen & Gary Cunningham  
Connie Cunningham  
Victor & Joan Cupples  
Marta Curti  
Lee Diggins  
Maureen Drobot  
Lauren Edwards  
Brenda Elwood  
Sandra Erickson  
Simone Angela Winkler  
Charlotte Fainblatt  
Marion Farber  
Michael Firenze  
Daniel & Carolyn Flanagan  
Lori Fodale  
Adrienne Foster  
Ellexis Frantz  
Judith Freeman  
Kelsey Frey  
Linda Grace Frost  
Megan George  
Judith Gifford

Kathleen Goll-Derstine  
Marlene J Gordon  
Elaine Gould  
Gloria & Joshua Greenberg  
E.A. Gustafson  
Joey Hagedorn  
Deepti Hardas  
Janet Harp  
Cynthia Hiatt  
Deborah Hirt  
Michael Hollars  
Kevin Dixon & Kimberly Hughes  
Robert & Cheryl Huguenor  
Rishabh Jain  
Deborah Jamison  
Suzanne Jaworowski  
Mark Joing  
Dale & Jane Jordan  
John & Yvonne Jue  
Lawrence McIntyre & Carol Karmen  
Patricia Kenny  
Melissa Kim  
Carolyn Knight  
Frank Kremiski  
Suzette Kyler  
Melissa & David Laurice  
Lucretia Lee  
Patricia Lynch  
Luz M. Molina De Mulero  
Loreen Makishima  
Jeremy Malerich  
C.W. Sr. & C.A. Mankin  
Manish Marwah  
Bruce Mast  
Ann McIntyre  
Robert & Janice McPeck  
Eve Meier  
Jim Meikrantz  
Dr. Loren Mendel  
Susan Mickiewicz  
Candace Mindigo  
Cindy Morse  
Julio Mulero  
Carol North  
Carol O'Brien  
Melanie O'Brien  
Janna Pauser  
Robert & Lorraine Pedretti

Sergio Perez  
Renée Polizzotto  
Julie Raia  
Andrea Reid  
Luz Reid  
Annemarie Rosengreen  
Lynne & Jack Rosser  
Nancy & Philip Ruhle  
Katrin Sangkuhl  
Glen Shaffer  
Murray & Bernice Siegel  
Brad Smith  
Larry Spivak  
Keith Stattenfield  
Ruth Stevens  
Carolyn Straub  
Annette Teng  
Kym Teppo  
Deborah Thompson  
Steve Thompson  
Catherine Trejo  
Ruth Troetschler  
Mary Usher  
Charles & Camille Wade  
Richard Williams  
George Wortiska

## Avocet Sponsor (\$100-\$249)

Emily Arcolino  
Robin Bean  
Dr. Barbara Lynn Bessey  
Dick & Sharon Blaine  
Robert Bolles  
Gary Campanella  
Dudley Carlson  
Maritza Chitnis  
Reese & Kathleen Cutler  
Deep Cliff Golf Course  
Dennis Farnden  
Harold Fukuma  
Mary & David Fullerton  
Robert Furrow  
Marilynn Galloway  
Levy Gerzberg  
Gary Govola  
John Hewitt  
Linda Johnson  
Kathleen & Raymond Kawakami

Pamela Kirkbride  
Chris & John Knight  
Garrett Lau  
John Muir Laws  
Ho Min Lim  
Calvin Lou  
Torstein & Nancy Lund  
Margaret MacNiven  
Michael Mammoser  
Kieren Marnach  
Sharon Mathog  
Steve McHenry  
Denise McNamara  
Eve Meier  
Donna Meyer  
Barbara Millin  
Frank Montgomery  
Greta Muller  
Mary Murphy  
ONEHOPE  
Kitty O'Neil  
Janice Pang & Scott Mackey  
Bill Pelletier  
George Peyton  
April Pufahl  
Cybele Renault  
Allen Royer  
Christine & James Russell  
Jennifer Rycenga  
Gary Silvanic  
Michael Smith  
Kizhanatham Srikanth  
Charles & Jean Thompson  
Laurie Toyama  
Steven Tracey  
Catherine Trejo  
Ruth Troetschler  
Charles Van Orden  
Ann Verdi  
Chuq Von Rospach  
Marilyn Wendler  
Riley & Virginia Willcox  
Robin Winterlin  
Patricia Wolff  
Virginia Wright  
Dagmar Zimdahl

## Burrowing Owl (\$250-\$499)

Ellyn Bush  
Jason Chan  
Cooper-Garrod Estate Vineyards  
Google Inc.  
Kirsten Holmquist  
Kristine Long & Jacques Gagne  
Los Gatos Birdwatcher  
James & Kathryn Johnson  
Jerry & Ginny Kaminski  
Brenda Kauf  
Joan Leighton  
David McIntyre  
Lisa Myers  
Steve Pollock  
John Richardson  
Michael & Alma Rogers  
Pati Rouzer  
Alison Jahrsdoerfer

## Peregrine Falcon (\$500-\$999)

Linda Brownrigg  
Bob Hirt  
Lindy Fung  
J. Craig Hunter  
Ralph Schardt  
Thermo Scientific  
Jack & Jan Tomlin

## Golden Eagle (\$1000+)

Blanche & Irving Laurie  
Foundation  
Gail & Doug Cheeseman  
Thomas Grey  
Johnson & Johnson PAC Match  
Vivek & Leena Khanzode  
Larry & Charlotte Langdon  
Barry & Virginia Langdon-Lassagne  
Pete & Sue LaTourrette  
Don McDougall  
Steven Patt  
Genny Smith

Save the date for:

# Wildlife & Harvest Day 2018!

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018 FROM 10:00AM-3:00PM**

**@ BLACKBERRY FARM IN CUPERTINO**

If you are between the ages of 5-18, we would love your help creating a logo for our biggest event of the year! The winning entry will be used in publicity for Wildlife & Harvest Day. The first place winner will also receive an event T-shirt featuring their artwork!

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:**

**TUESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 4th**

For contest submission form, go to: [scvas.org/WildlifeDay](http://scvas.org/WildlifeDay)

Last year's  
logo:



For event information, go to: [scvas.org/WildlifeDay](http://scvas.org/WildlifeDay)



# Nature Shop

## NEW Hours:

M-W 10:00AM-4:30PM

Sat 10:00AM-2:00PM

\* Volunteers wanted Thurs & Fri - please contact us if interested!  
Check website for current Thurs & Fri operating hours.\*



Farewell, Tracy! We are so thankful to have had such a wonderful Office Manager for 2 years! We will miss her greatly, but hope she enjoys her well deserved retirement.

## A LETTER FROM TRACY:

It is time for me to bid a fond farewell to SCVAS as retirement is calling me. The Office Manager role has been an especially fine fit because I have been able to use my extensive retail background to keep the Nature Shop fluffed and looking fresh, while maintaining necessities like feeders, seed, and books for our members. The Administrative side of the job proved to be ever changing and challenging as in the past two years we have installed new:

- Bank • Phone service & phones • Payroll system • Database
- And so much more... There has been much to learn about each system. I have especially enjoyed learning about these fascinating flying creatures with all of their antics, and I treasure many new friends I have had the pleasure to meet as they walk through the front door. Ralph has provided an astonishingly positive work place with warm camaraderie among all staff (lunches will never be the same).

And so my next adventure begins.

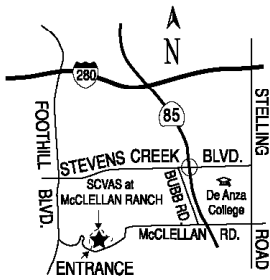
Fondly, Tracy Neher

**"HOW LUCKY I AM TO HAVE SOMETHING THAT MAKES SAYING GOODBYE SO HARD." - WINNIE THE POOH**

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

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

Non-Profit Organization  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 San Jose, CA  
 Permit No. 5869



## New Members of SCVAS

*Those who joined April 1st - May 31st, 2018.  
 We look forward to a great year with your support!*

Julie Amato	Janet King	Barbara Slone
Mike Ambrose	Frank Kremiski	Rod Smith
Carolyn Apte	Virginia Lindgren	Hector Soldano
William Borucki	Bonnie Mace	Teresa Stahl
Walt Brown	Cathy Melior Benoit	Kym Teppo
Mayitza & Jay Chitnis	Michaela Mrackova	Nicole Tomes-Orlale
Marcia Elmer	Steve Padgett	Timothy Tsang
Laura Fanger	Ellen Pasquale	Luis Villablanca
Allison Fluty	Mary Ann Robertson	Carol Youshock
Jason Heirtzler	Barbara Shev	
Dan Kadra	Julie Simmons	

*And thank you to those who renewed their membership!*

## Events Calendar

**Fri. 7/13 & 8/17; 12:30-2:00PM**  
**Nature Journaling with John Muir Laws**  
 McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino  
 Free workshops for all ages! No RSVP  
 required; please be on time. *See calendar*  
*at [scvas.org](http://scvas.org) for more details.*

### Young Audubon Activities

**Sun. 7/15; 10:00AM-12:00PM**  
**Family Egret Outing**  
*See page 5 for details.*

**Sat. 8/25; 10:45AM-1:15PM**  
**Elkhorn Slough Safari**  
*See page 5 for details.*

### STAFF

#### Executive Director

Ralph Schardt, [rschardt@scvas.org](mailto:rschardt@scvas.org)  
 (408) 252-3748

#### Office Manager

Tracy Neher, [scvas@scvas.org](mailto:scvas@scvas.org)  
 (408) 252-3747

#### Environmental Advocate

Shani Kleinhaus, [shani@scvas.org](mailto:shani@scvas.org)  
 (650) 868-2114

#### Environmental Advocacy Associate

Mackenzie Mossing, [mackenziescvas@gmail.com](mailto:mackenziescvas@gmail.com)  
 (408) 394-0330

#### Burrowing Owl Conservation

Sandra Menzel, [sandmenzel@gmail.com](mailto:sandmenzel@gmail.com)  
 (831) 431-3301

#### Education and Outreach Manager

Kelly Alfrey, [outreach@scvas.org](mailto:outreach@scvas.org)  
 (408) 627-7172

#### Education Programs Coordinator

Kelsey Frey, [programs@scvas.org](mailto:programs@scvas.org)  
 (408) 252-3740

**Office Fax** (408) 252-2850  
**Office E-mail** [scvas@scvas.org](mailto:scvas@scvas.org)  
**Website** [www.scvas.org](http://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 - Wednesday 10:00AM - 4:30PM**  
**Thursday - Friday \*check website\***  
**Saturday 10:00AM - 2:00PM**

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

<b>President</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
Diane Hart	Don McDougall
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
Gabrielle Feldman	Joan Leighton

#### DIRECTORS

Mike Armer	Vivek Khanzode
Tom Grey	John Richardson
Peter Hart	
Bob Hirt	