



THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

May-June 2018

Say No to Sprawl: No on Measure B, Yes on Measure C

by Shani Kleinhaus and Mackenzie Mossing, SCVAS Environmental Advocacy Team

On June 5th, San Jose voters will have the chance to say “no” to sprawl by voting NO on Measure B and YES on Measure C. Measure B, or the “Evergreen Senior Homes Initiative,” allows developers to circumvent environmental review for a 200-acre gated community in Evergreen while covertly facilitating residential sprawl into the habitat and open spaces of Coyote Valley. The initiative was crafted and funded by two billionaire developers hoping to bypass the normal planning process



Coyote Valley by Dave Poeschel

in order to create their own more profitable set of rules for development that would force residents to subsidize the costs and consequences. That is why all of San Jose’s leaders, including Mayor Liccardo and all ten City Council Members, are opposed to Measure B (check out: www.noonbsj.com/who-says-no.html).

cont'd on page 8

Monthly Speaker Series

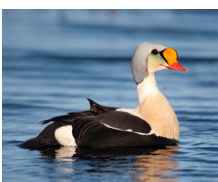
Cubberley Community Center, Room H1, Palo Alto - Middlefield & Montrose Roads
Doors open 7:30PM; Program begins 8:00PM

Wednesday, May 16

"Birds of Alaska: The Great Land" with Norman Kikuchi, M.D.



Least Auklets



King Eider

Alaska is a birder's paradise, and Norman has visited almost annually for the past 20 years! Birds flock here for the large expanses of tundra and boreal forests, low densities of predators per square mile, and a large insect biomass in summer. Norman's presentation will feature photos from Nome, St. Paul Island, Barrow, and Homer. When he's not out photographing all of the breeding birds in the U.S. and Canada, Norman practices Urgent Care and Occupational Medicine. He is also a Santa Cruz Bird Club lifetime member, and an SCVAS field trip leader.

General Membership & Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Saturday, June 30 from 5:00-7:00PM at The Garden House in Shoup Park; 400 University Avenue, Los Altos

Enjoy a catered dinner as a thank you for your support of SCVAS! We will also recognize some of our outstanding volunteers. RSVP at scvas.org; click "Calendar" and look for the event.

Board Elections

The Nominating Committee of the SCVAS Board of Directors nominates these candidates for elected positions on the Board for the term indicated. New directors and officers take office July 1, 2018. SCVAS members in good standing may vote at the General Membership & Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The majority of available votes determines the winner.

Position & Term	Candidate	Directors at Large
President 2018 - 19	Diane Hart	Re-election for a 3-year term: Tom Grey, Peter Hart, & Gabrielle Feldman
Vice President 2018 - 19	Vivek Khanzode	
Treasurer 2018 - 19	Don McDougall	Re-election for the remaining 2 years of a 3-year term: John Richardson
Secretary 2018 - 19	Joan Leighton	

May-June Field Trips

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

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

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

This is a simple but necessary step to ensure our trips run as smoothly as possible. Please RSVP by going to 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.

Thank you!

Wednesday, May 2, 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**

Saturday, May 5, 8:00AM

Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

Half day. **Leader:** Kirsten Holmquist, (408) 747-0988. **Directions:** From I-280 in Palo Alto take Page Mill Rd west, toward Skyline Blvd (Hwy 35), for approx. 7 miles. Meet at Monte Bello OSP parking area on the left. **Highlights:** Possible Lazuli Bunting, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Grasshopper Sparrows. **Notes:** Be prepared, it can be cold, wet and foggy. **RC**

Sunday, May 6, 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.

Wednesday, May 09, 8:00AM

New Almaden Township

Half day. **Leaders:** Janna Pauser, (408) 569-9264 or jannapauser@gmail.com, and Eve Meier. **Directions:** From Hwy 85 in San Jose, take Almaden Expwy south for 4.3 miles. Keep right at Y and drive through New Almaden Township. Park in

Almaden-Quicksilver Hacienda parking lot on your right, which opens at 8:00AM. We'll bird through New Almaden Township on Almaden and Bertram Roads. **Difficulty:** Easy walking. **Notes:** Early start time. **RC, LO**

Thursday, May 10, 11:00AM

Shoreline Riparian to Baylands

2 hours. **Leader:** Ralph Schardt, (408) 624-7845. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 take Shoreline exit and head for the bay. Turn right on Crittenden Ln and continue to the end. Parking is available on the right in the nursery - look for Audubon Trip Leader to know where to park. Carpool if possible. We will hike along a trail that is in the area next to Stevens Creek where it comes out to the bay. **Highlights:** Riparian birds as well as raptors and shoreline birds. **Difficulty:** Easy walk with places to stop on bridges over the creek for better access to birds and scoping. **Notes:** Bring binoculars and/or cameras. **RC, LO**

Saturday, May 12, 8:15AM

Alum Rock Park

Half day. **Leader:** Jim Johnson, (408) 996-3506. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 or I-680 take McKee Rd northeast toward hills then left on Toyon Ave, right on Penitencia Creek Rd, and continue into park. Pass under bridge and meet at far end of upper parking lot. **Difficulty:** Moderately strenuous 3-4 mile-walk. **Notes:** Vehicle entry fee required. **RC**

Sunday, May 13, 9:00AM

Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve

Half day. **Leader:** Ralph Schardt, (408) 624-7845. Bring Mom out for Mother's Day! **Directions:** We will meet in the visitor parking lot at Coyote Valley OSP. Take Hwy 101 to Bailey Rd and take Bailey West (right turn off of freeway), then left

on Santa Teresa Blvd. Follow Santa Teresa Blvd to Palm Ave and turn right. This road ends at Coyote Valley OSP parking lot. **Highlights:** Golden Eagle, Bullock's Oriole, Rock Wren, Northern Flicker, Red-winged Blackbird, and many others. **Difficulty:** Hiking is easy to moderate. This trip is open to all levels of birding, including families and beginners. **Notes:** Water, binoculars, close-toed hiking shoes, and field guides are essential; cameras are welcome. No dogs. **LO**

Saturday, May 19, 8:15AM

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

Half day. **Leader:** Rich Page, (408) 377-1092. **Directions:** Meet at the Vista Point Pullout located on the bay side of Skyline Blvd (Hwy 35) a little over a mile northwest of Page Mill Rd. **Highlights:** Possible Grasshopper Sparrow and Lazuli Bunting. **Notes:** Bring extra layers of clothing in case it is foggy and cold. **RC, NF**

Sunday, May 20, 8:30AM

Sanborn County Park

Half day. **Leader:** Dave Zittin, (408) 515-7104. **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. On Google Maps, this lot is labeled Youth Science Institute. **Notes:** Entrance fee required. **LO**

Saturday, May 26, 8:00AM

Ulistac Natural Area

Half day. **Leader:** Chris Johnson, (831) 601-8260. **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. **RC**

Field Trips

cont'd

Saturday, June 2, 8:00AM

Rancho del Oso

(Coastal Big Basin State Park)

Half day plus. **Leader:** Rich Page, (408) 377-1092. **Directions:** Take Hwy 17 to Santa Cruz, and then go north on Hwy 1. Meet at the beach parking area alongside Hwy 1 just north of Waddell Creek Bridge (at MP 36.30; which is 2 miles south of Año Nuevo State Park and 7 miles north of Davenport). **Highlights:** Swainson's Thrush, Pacific Wren, Wilson's Warbler, and Woodpeckers. **Difficulty:** Moderately long but fairly level hike along Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail. **Notes:** Variable weather, dress in layers. **RC**

Wednesday, June 6, 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 May 2. **RC**

Saturday, June 9, 8:15AM

Stevens Creek County Park

Half day. **Leader:** Jim Johnson, (408) 996-3506. **Directions:** From I-280 in Cupertino take Foothill Expy exit south and follow Foothill Blvd south (it 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 a riparian area. **Notes:** Vehicle entry fee required. **RC**

Sunday, June 10, 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 Francisco Creek Trail (towards Lucy Evans Center). **Difficulty:** For beginning birders but all are encouraged to attend. **Notes:** Bring your spotting scope and a friend. **RC**

Wednesday June 13, 8:00AM

Almaden Lake (East Side) and Alamitos Creek Trail

Half day. **Leaders:** Janna Pauser, (408) 569-9264 or jannapauser@gmail.com, and Hugh McDevitt. **Directions:** From Hwy 85 in San Jose take Almaden Expwy south 0.8 miles, then left onto Coleman Rd. Turn right onto Winfield and park on street near entrance gate, or pay

\$6.00 fee for parking lot. Meet near blue bathrooms. **Highlights:** Breeding birds. **Difficulty:** Easy walking. **Notes:** Early start time. **RC, LO**

Saturday, June 16, 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**

Saturday, June 23, 9:00AM

Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve

Half day. **Leader:** Ralph Schardt, (408) 624-7845. See write-up for May 13. **LO**

Saturday, June 30, 8:00AM

Ulistac Natural Area

Half day. **Leader:** Chris Johnson, (831) 601-8260. See write-up for May 26. **RC**

Summer Excursions



Humpback Whale by Ted Cheeseman

Monterey Bay

Whale and Bird Watching

with Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Join us for an incredible day of whale watching and birding aboard the *Star of Monterey*. We'll be looking for Blue Whales, Humpback Whales, Sea Otters, and dolphins, along with some amazing seabirds - shearwaters, jaegers, skuas, albatross, and alcids. Grab your binoculars and get ready for an adventure!

To register, contact Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris at (408) 741-5330 or info@cheesemans.com.

Date: Sunday, 7/1; 7:30AM-4:00PM.

Location: Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey

Fee: \$160/person

SCVAS Birdathon 2018 Updates

by Carolyn Knight, Birdathon Coordinator

Our annual Birdathon began on March 25th, and we are well on our way! As of this newsletter's publication date, we have 20 teams registered, and 5 teams have already been out birding. So far we have raised over **\$10,000** for our education and conservation work, including our Wetlands Discovery Program, which reaches hundreds of elementary students in Santa Clara County every year!

Team Highlights

The **Sitting Ducks**, led by Chuq von Rospach, were the first of our intrepid teams to venture out, kicking off this year's Birdathon with a Big Sit at Shoreline. They spotted 50 species in four hours, including 11 species of ducks, and 4 species of grebes (Pied-billed, Eared, Western, and Clark's). Other highlights included a Belted Kingfisher successfully capturing a huge fish, and a pair of enthusiastic Northern Mockingbirds determined to make birding by ear a true challenge. \$2,500 has been raised by this team so far!

Our youngest participants were **The Fledglings**, led by Vivek Khanzode, and made up of five students ranging in age from middle to high school. They hit Charleston Slough first thing in the morning, then toured the Palo Alto Baylands, and ended at McClellan Ranch for their birding excursion of the South San Francisco Bay Area. The Fledglings put together a fantastic list of 107 species in just four hours! They were lucky enough to see a Great Horned Owl, and we are very impressed with their successful fundraising efforts - so far they have raised over \$1,200!



The Sitting Ducks were treated to the sight of a beautiful rainbow, along with amazing birds!



The Fledglings spread their wings and searched far and wide for new species during their Birdathon.

The Avocet 4

Top Fundraising Teams

1. Sitting Ducks
2. Rock Wrens
3. The Fledglings

Top Fundraising Individuals

1. Renée Polizotto
2. Bob Hirt
3. Carolyn Straub

Prize Highlights

We have some stellar prizes for participants this year, all thanks to our fantastic sponsors!

- Chuq von Rospach donated a pair of compact 10x28 Diamondback Binoculars.
- Renée Polizotto and Julio Mulero gifted a fully stocked picnic backpack, complete with a \$25 Trader Joe's giftcard and a bottle of wine.
- Bob Hirt and Mike Mammoser are leading a customized birding adventure, and will help the recipient track down a desired species or explore a specific location of their choosing.
- Local nature photographers and birders Chuq von Rospach and Steven Patt have donated amazing bird prints!
- And many more! Take a peek at scvas.org/birdathon, and click on "Prizes."

Thanks to all of our participants, team leaders, prize sponsors, and donors for your support and enthusiasm! **Although the birding window for Birdathon is now closed, we will continue to collect donations until Monday, May 14th at 5:00PM.**

**** Don't forget! The Birdathon Awards Dinner will be held at McClellan Ranch at 6:00PM on Tuesday, June 5th.** Food and refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP at scvas.org/birdathon or find the dinner on our calendar. Dinner will include prize announcements, a silent auction, games, and fun for all!

Questions? Email Birdathon Coordinator, Carolyn Knight, at scvasbirdathon@gmail.com



Left to right: A Rock Wren and a Western Bluebird, both taken by Ralph Schardt during the Shrikes of Joy Birdathon outing.

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

by Shani Kleinhaus and Mackenzie Mossing



Calero County Park by Mackenzie Mossing

County Parks: A Vital Tool in Preserving Nature

Santa Clara County Parks is updating their strategic parks plan to guide the department's next twenty years. Despite the public's resounding calls for natural resource preservation, the original proposed vision for the plan was initially weak on emphasizing the importance of protecting nature. We wrote a joint letter and spoke up at the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors meeting, urging them to modify the vision. Our advocacy paid off! Supervisor Simitian directed staff to add "responsible resource stewardship" to the vision. We also had the opportunity to review a draft of the plan with staff, and we were pleased to see strategies and goals that aim to include citizen science and to preserve sensitive landscapes and habitats for special-status species.

A Win for Coyote Creek!

In late February, we learned that a site immediately adjacent to Coyote Creek in South San Jose was being considered for a bridge housing community. While SCVAS is supportive of transitional housing for the homeless, we believe this site is not in an appropriate location for a bridge housing community considering the sensitive riparian habitat and the distance from public transit and amenities (it is isolated in an industrial area). We wrote a letter to City Council urging them to drop the site from consideration and instead expedite the process for a more appropriate site in District 3. Just a few days later, we learned that the site was removed from the list and the land will soon be transferred to Santa Clara County Parks!

Pushing Campbell to Protect Birds and Nature

With the help of our friends at the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, California Native Plant Society Santa Clara Valley Chapter, and South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition, we authored a letter to the City of Campbell asking for their new general plan to include a vision, goals, and policies that protect nature. As the City looks to "revitalize" the Los Gatos Creek Corridor with new development, we emphasized the importance of riparian setbacks, pre-

serving and planting native trees, and bird-safe building design. We will continue to follow the planning process while advocating for nature and garnering support from the community.

Heartbreak at Overfelt Gardens Park

In March, we learned that an overzealous volunteer took park maintenance instructions too far and decimated the California Wild native garden and wildlife sanctuary in San Jose's Overfelt Gardens Park. Our advocacy team surveyed the damage with heavy hearts: big, beautiful Toyon shrubs reduced to stumps, young oak trees hacked into pieces, and piles of leaf litter removed from the garden. Considering how important this park is to birds and birders, we are working diligently with the Parks and Recreation Department, San Jose Parks Advocates and San Jose State University students to ameliorate the problem and discuss preventative measures so that incidents like this cannot happen again. The San Jose Parks Department will develop a recovery and management plan for California Wild, and we expect to be invited to contribute to this plan. We will make sure the native garden is restored to its former glory for people, birds, and wildlife to enjoy.



Shani standing next to the vegetation that was removed at Overfelt
by Mackenzie Mossing

Why SCVAS Supports LAFCO

The Santa Clara Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) was created in 1963 by the State Legislature to curb urban sprawl through overseeing the boundaries of cities and preserving agricultural lands and open space. Today, cities and districts in Santa Clara County are required to obtain LAFCO's approval for boundary changes (such as annexations) and to provide services outside of a city's boundaries. SCVAS fully supports the mission of LAFCO and believes the commission is a vital tool in preserving open space and habitat for birds. During a LAFCO workshop in March, we spoke in support of LAFCO's objectives and reminded commissioners that their responsibility is to uphold the law, even when it means that they have to say no to proposals.

Field Notes

(February-March 2018)

by Pete Dunten

Geese through Owls

Small numbers of **Greater White-fronted Geese** were present through the end of March, with high counts of six at the Santa Jose/Santa Clara WPCP (DWn) and nearby Arzino Ranch on 3 Feb (CDB, DDB), twelve at Byxbee Park on 4 Feb (WGB), nine at the Shoreline Lake kite flying area on 12 Mar (GL), and nine nearby at Byxbee Park on 25 Mar (WGB). The high counts of **Cackling Geese** were nineteen on 2 Feb at Los Gatos Creek CP (ER, DZ) and ten on 14 Mar flying over the Coyote Creek Field Station (AR). The hybrid male **Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal** was noted again in Mallard Slough on 11 and 12 Mar (MJM, JuH, DSc). The **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** at the North

VTA Mitigation Pond stayed through 9 Mar (RJ)

and the Eurasian Teal at Coast Casey Forebay was found through the end of March (MJ, m. ob.). The last date a **Barrow's Goldeneye** remained at Shoreline Lake was 13 Mar (DZ). A **Red-throated Loon** frequented Shoreline Lake between 7 and 11 Mar (FV, m. ob.). The **Pelagic Cormorant** found the last week of January was seen once more on the levee between Alviso Salt Ponds A14 and A11 on 1 Feb (JVs). The **American Bittern** in the channel at the end of Terminal Way was noted again on 16 Feb (WGB). It can be remarkably hard to find for such a large bird. An evening gathering of **Northern Harriers** along Laguna Ave in Coyote Valley totaled 21 birds on 8 Feb (RPh). The number of harriers wintering in the county is greater

than the number of breeding residents, and the location of this winter roost is far from the harrier's known breeding grounds in the county. Two **Swainson's Hawks** on migration were seen riding thermals over Pearson-Arastradero Preserve on 18 Mar (RFu et al.). Three overwintering **Ferruginous Hawks** were over Coyote Ridge on 3 Feb (CE). The latest date one was seen was 6 Mar, in the south county along Gilroy Hot Springs Rd (DZ). **Black Oystercatchers** were extremely rare this far south in SF Bay until 2015; since then at least one has been found every year. This year, the first



Red-throated Loon by Garrett Lau

sighting was of one at the San Francisco Creek Delta on 28 Mar (JL). A **Glaucous Gull** rested on one of the islands at Alviso Salt Pond A16 on 9 – 11 Mar (DN, BH, MJM, et al.). Our first **Caspian Tern** of the year arrived on 28 Mar at Palo Alto Baylands (GL). None have been reported from Alviso Salt Pond A16, where they have nested in recent years. This year the terns will have to establish a colony without help from decoys and recorded calls. A **Black Skimmer** returned on 13 Feb to Charleston Slough (CnB), and through the remainder of Feb and Mar the high count was only three at Charleston Slough, on 12 Mar (GL). A single **Short-eared Owl** was seen in Coyote Valley near the OSP at the end of Palm Ave between 13 Feb (RPh) and 3 Mar (VT).

Hummingbirds through Solitaires
Rufous Hummingbirds on migration turned up on 1 Feb in Almaden Valley (MFa) and on 2 Feb on the Stanford Campus (RFu). A female **Allen's Hummingbird** on a nest outside Gilroy near Uvas Creek on 22 Feb was a nice find (JMy). The nest held three eggs on 6 Mar (JMy). A male Allen's Hummingbird was displaying on 27 Mar at San Felipe Rd not far from Pacheco Creek (PDU). Nesting at this location is a possibility, though it has not been confirmed. Up to two **Lewis's Woodpeckers** were seen at Chesbro Reservoir through 26 Mar (JPa).

The woodpeckers have been present since late October of last year. One was noted on 24 Feb at Coyote Valley OSP (RPh, LM); the first report from this location was in early January. A **Red-naped Sapsucker** was found along the Coyote Creek Trail below Anderson Dam on 16 Feb (JH). The Red-naped Sapsucker wintering at Almaden Lake Park was present

as late as 5 Mar (SPz). Two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were discovered in March, one at Rancho Cañada del Oro on 5 Mar (JPa, KB), and one at Vasona Lake CP on 29 Mar (SLC). The sapsucker at Rancho Cañada del Oro was seen again on 6 Mar (RPh) and 11 Mar (BM); the Vasona Lake sapsucker was found again on 30 Mar (SLC). The only Empidonax flycatcher that nests in the county is also the first to arrive in the spring. Single **Pacific-slope Flycatchers** were found at McClellan Ranch Preserve (MJM) and in Stevens Creek CP (BM) on 24 Mar. The **Vermilion Flycatcher** in Coyote Valley stayed through 13 Mar (MJM). **Western Kingbirds** returned on 28 Mar, when two were seen at Coyote Ridge OSP and one was at Coyote Valley OSP (both GL). The quarrel-

Field Notes *cont'd*

some songs of **Warbling Vireos** can be heard again, another sure sign of spring. The first arrival was at Coyote Lake CP on 9 Mar, and the second at Rancho Cañada del Oro on 11 Mar (both ER). A **Townsend's Solitaire** was a nice find in the NW section of Henry Coe SP on 25 Feb (SPz). A second visited a Los Altos neighborhood well-provisioned with fruiting Blue Elders on 14 Mar (KBe).

Warblers through Evening Grosbeak
Nashville Warblers are most often found in the county as spring migrants moving north along the Diablo Range. They are occasionally found in the winter; this winter one was at Ulistac NA on 26 and 28 Feb (PB, RPh, JVs). Single wintering **Yellow Warblers** were at the Sunnyvale WPCP from 7 Feb to 6 Mar (EvM, STu, JRu) and at Los Gatos Creek CP on

18 Mar (DZ), when six were tallied. A **Song Sparrow** from one of the Pacific Northwest groups was at the Mountain View Forebay on 13 Mar (WGB). All of the sightings of Pacific Northwest Song Sparrows this winter have been of birds near water, either the Bay edge or along the Guadalupe River. A **Swamp Sparrow's** characteristic call gave it away at Alviso Marina on 25 Mar (BM). The sparrow was refound through 29 Mar (m. ob.). They are occasionally found in April and even early May (fide WGB). Single **Slate-colored Juncos** visited a feeder in San Jose on 15 Feb (RWR) and the Pueblo Picnic Area in Santa Teresa CP on 7 Mar (BM). The first **Black-headed Grosbeak** was noted late in the month on 23 Mar outside Gilroy (JMy) and the second on 31 Mar at Rancho Cañada del Oro (MDo). Two more signs of spring arrived earlier on the same date, 19 Mar. Our first **Hooded Oriole** was visiting a hummingbird feeder in

(JMn) and one was along San Felipe Rd (PDU). Five **Evening Grosbeaks** in Downtown Los Altos on 29 Mar was the high count of the winter (DZ).

Observers: Patrick Baglee (PB), Kathleen Bendler (KBe), Cynthia Berg (CnB), Bob Bolles (BB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Karen Burnson (KB), Cedro De Bryl (CDB), Domo De Bryl (DDB), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Pete Dunten (PDU), Craig Edgerton (CE), Marion Farber (MFa), Rob Furrow (RFu), Jane Haley (JH), Julie Hart (JuH), Bob Hirt (BH), Kirsten Holmquist (KH), Richard Jeffers (RJ), Melissa Johnson (MJ), Garrett Lau (GL), Susan LeClair (SLC), Jasen Liu (JL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Jeff Manker (JMn), Eve Meier (EvM), Jean Myers (JMy), Lisa Myers (LM), David Nickerson (DN), Janna Pauser (JPa), Sergio Perez (SPz), Ryan Phillips (RPh), Bob Reiling (RWR), Alex Rinkert (AR), Edward Rooks (ER), Judy Rudolph (JRu), Daniel Schlaepfer (DSc), Vivek Tiwari (VT), Steve Tucker (STu), Frank Vanslager (FV), Jason Vassallo (JVs), Dan Wenny (DWN), David Zittin (DZ)



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

Nashville Warbler by Jason Vassallo

24 Feb (KH et al.). Two more wintering warblers were noted in February, a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Overfelt Gardens on 3 Feb (RJ), and a **Wilson's Warbler** at Lake Ranch in Sanborn CP on 24 Feb (ER, DZ, STu). The **Chipping Sparrows** wintering at TJ Martin Park stayed until

San Jose on that date (fide LM). The second Hooded Oriole to arrive was on 25 Mar at Ed Levin CP (STu). Our first **Bullock's Oriole** visited Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 19 Mar (BB). The second arrivals were on 27 Mar in the southern part of the county, when one was in Gilroy along Uvas Creek

Tucked away in 367 pages of fine print, Measure B establishes a loophole in San Jose's General Plan that could allow all commercial or industrial land to be converted into housing. Except for a couple of high rises in downtown, this means that any land that supports employment (strip malls, low rise office parks) or is vacant but designated for employment (Coyote Valley, North San Jose, Almaden) could easily be transformed into sprawling subdivisions. The threat of industrial development has loomed over Coyote Valley for decades. Measure B accelerates this threat.

Recognizing Measure B as a serious danger to San Jose, the City added a charter amendment to June's ballot in order to counteract Measure B should it pass. This charter amendment, Measure C, would

thwart residential sprawl in places like Coyote Valley by making it infeasible to convert employment land within one mile of the Urban Growth Boundary into any other use except for open space, parks, or public services. Measure C will help protect San Jose's residents and the environment by keeping the community, rather than the developers, in control of development.

Time after time, SCVAS has fought hard to save Coyote Valley from bulldozers and to preserve the land as critical wildlife corridor and habitat for migratory birds. We will not give up until we win this fight, but we need your help! Join us in speaking up for Coyote Valley's open space, birds and wildlife: sign up to volunteer for the campaign to defeat Measure B at www.noonbsj.com/take-action.html. Vote NO on Measure B and YES on Measure C.

Please join SCVAS and Audubon California in voting YES on Proposition 68

SCVAS is joining Audubon California and a broad coalition of conservation organizations in supporting Proposition 68 on the June 5 California ballot. These groups have cited numerous potential benefits to California's birds and other natural treasures, as well as the state's residents. Called the California Clean Water & Safe Parks Act, Prop. 68 is a \$4 billion bond measure that will fund a number of important priorities for Californians, including local, regional and state parks, clean drinking water projects, flood protection, and habitat projects that are vital to the state's diverse wildlife.

Audubon California was part of a broad coalition of organizations working closely with lawmakers during the 2017 legislative session to put Prop. 68 on the ballot. This critical opportunity comes at a time when millions of Californians do not have access to safe parks, trails, and recreation areas. Moreover, the cycle of drought and extreme weather is already taking a toll on California's natural treasures, and threatens our communities with flooding and ecological degradation.

These same forces have also exposed our state's antiquated water infrastructure, bringing into doubt our ability to provide clean, safe, and reliable drinking water to our residents. Lastly, with most of the bond funding for vital conservation programs running out in the last few years, it is time for Californians to make the next investment in the protection of the natural resources that make California's parks and open spaces destinations for millions of visitors every year.

Proposition 68 includes funding for a broad array of conservation priorities:

\$2.83 billion for parks and natural resources funding

- Investments in park-poor neighborhoods
- Much-needed maintenance for state parks
- Trails and creek restoration
- Funding for critical restoration at the Salton Sea

\$1.27 billion for water reliability

- Clean drinking water projects
- Groundwater clean-up and sustainability
- Flood protection, including multi-benefit flood projects

\$767 million for state conservancies

- Vital landscape-scale conservation work
- Ocean, bay, and coastal protection

\$442 million for climate adaptation

- Projects to ensure habitat connectivity
- Collaborations on climate-smart farm practices
- Rivers and waterways restoration

From SCVAS Executive Director, Ralph Schardt:

"Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and its education programs, field trips, and conservation efforts depend on clean water, safe parks, and regional open space. That is why SCVAS endorses Proposition 68. Your support is appreciated."

SCVAS Events Calendar

Wed. 5/2; 7:30-9:00PM

Bay Area Bird Photographers

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

Topic 5/2: "Birds and Wildlife of Patagonia and Antarctica"
with Vivek Khanzodé

See scvas.org/babp for more details.

Tues. 5/8 & 6/12; 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 5/8: Pick your own bird topic

Topic 6/12: Annual picnic (venue TBD)

Fri. 5/11 & 6/15; 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 for more details.

Tues. 6/5; 6:00PM

Birdathon Awards Dinner

McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino

See page 4 for details.

Sat. 6/30; 5:00-7:00PM

General Membership & Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

The Garden House in Shoup Park, Los Altos

Enjoy a catered dinner as a thank you for your involvement with SCVAS! We will also recognize outstanding Volunteers and vote for Board Members.

See announcement on page 1.

Young Audubon Activities

Sat. 5/19; 7:30-10:00AM

Conservation in Action: Bird Banding with SFBBO

Coyote Creek Field Station

Join us at the peak of 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 at least 7 years old and accompanied by an adult. See announcement on page 10.

SCVAS Classes

We are pleased to offer the following classes to our members and community. For full descriptions and to register, visit our website at scvas.org and find the class in our calendar.

Outdoor Photography with an Intro to Digiscoping

Dates: Tuesday, May 22 and Thursday, June 14 **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 photography equipment needed for outdoor conditions 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.



Western Bluebird by Ralph Schardt

Beginner's Bird and Plant ID Walk Series

Date: Saturday, June 16 **Time:** 9:00AM-12:00PM

Location: Lake Cunningham Park

Cost: Free! \$6 Parking fee is required.

Register: RSVP through Meetup.com ("California Native Plant Society - Santa Clara Valley Chapter" or "Open Space Appreciation Hiking Enthusiasts")

Session #2: First Day of Summer

Topic: Do you love being outdoors? Do you want to deepen your appreciation of nature by learning to identify the birds and plants around you? At the onset of summer, join us for a beginner's bird and plant identification walk through Lake Cunningham Park - a major destination for waterfowl and migratory 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.

Organized by California Native Plant Society, SCVAS, and Open Space Authority



Summer 2017 Walk by Arvind Kumar

Friends of SCVAS

Gifts received February 1st through March 31st, 2018

Gift (Up to \$99)

Muriel Altus
Donald & Jean Arndt
Roger & Mary Ashley
Bass Angler Magazine
Diane Bates
Daniel Benefiel
Philip Berg
LC Boros
Byron & Kay Brown
Bert Bruggeman
Jean Carvalho
Martha Carpenter
John Comiskey
Enrico Croce
Joan Cummings
Kenneth & Elna Cunningham
Jean Fordis
Pam Frey
Karan Gathani
Srikant Gokulnatha
Marlene J Gordon
Ann Hepenstal
William Hetrick
Albert Jeans
Barbara Johnson
Leena Khanzode
Subbu Kuttetira
Mark Lassagne
Joan Loney
Peter & Christina Maltbaek

Karen McCreddin
Barbara Millin
Steven & Kathi Minden
Gerald Mugnolo
Kathleen Nunes
Megan O'Brien
Jason Panza
Betsy & Craig Parada
John & Margaret Poole
Ralph Schardt
Gary Sharon
Walter & Judith Sleeth
Judith Sullivan
Sigal Tzoore
Charles & Camille Wade
Judy Warren
Steven Zamek

Avocet Sponsor (\$100-\$249)

Ed Aiken
Joan Bose
Google Inc.
Mary Kamprath
Kelly Keenan
Mike Kutilek
Kaushik Lakshiminarayanan
Francis & Jeanne Lewis
Nateri Madavan
Maidenherren Fund
Kenneth Mamitsaka
Carlos Marquez

Martha O'Neal
Tina Petrigni
Donna & Darwin Poulos
April Pufahl
Harjeet Randhawa
Tate & Curtis Snyder
Martin Sorensen
Marcella Stauber
Ruth Van Sciver
Mary Wisnewski

Burrowing Owl (\$250-\$499)

Gordon & Carolyn Davidson
J McCranie
William McHenry
Elizabeth Salzer
Shripad & Shubha Tuljapurkar

Peregrine Falcon (\$500-\$999)

David McIntyre
Yavneh Day School

Golden Eagle (\$1000+)

Patricia Brennan Foundation
Philippe Cohen
Bob Hirt
Julio Mulero & Renee Polizotto
Lonnie Polizotto

Young Audubon

For more information and to register, visit scvas.org and click "Kid's Corner," then "Young Audubon."

Conservation in Action: Bird Banding with SFBBO Saturday, May 19; 7:30-10:00AM

Join us at the peak of the spring migration for a special opportunity to witness live bird banding demonstrations by experts from San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO). Cost: \$25/family or \$8/child*, \$10/adult

*Children must be at least 7 years old and accompanied by an adult



Audubon Naturalist Training Monday-Friday, July 16-24 9:00AM-12:00PM

Improve your high school student's outdoor skills with training in navigation, wildlife and plant identification, and nature interpretation. Students will gain knowledge of the ecology of California and confidence in their ability to share that knowledge with others. An Audubon Naturalist certification will be awarded upon completion of training.
Cost: \$125/member or \$175/non-member

Nature Shop

Hours:

M 10:00AM-4:00PM

T-F 9:00AM-4:30PM

Sat 10:00AM-2:00PM

Liberty Graphics t-shirts are 100% made in the USA! They also use water-based ink - better for you, and the planet! *All t-shirts come in S, M, L, XL, have the SCVAS logo on the sleeve, and are \$23.50 each.*



These Great Blue Heron and Sandhill Crane t-shirts are designed by celebrated ornithologist, author, and illustrator David Sibley.



These t-shirts feature original creations by Earth Art International artist Sue Coccia. The Butterfly and the Bee designs come in ladies' sizes only.



[SCVAS logo on right sleeve]

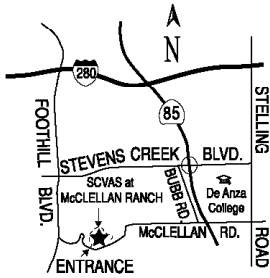


Check out our new SCVAS logo dark blue hoodie! Priced at \$40.00.

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

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



New Members of SCVAS

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

Raminder Bajwa	John Harshman	Judy Rudolph
Ellis Bigelow	Diana Holland	Ryan Schilling
Kathleen Boone	Svetlana Klier	John Sims
Clifford Bryant	Kaushik Lakshiminarayanan	Walter & Judith Sleeth
Isabelle Cole	Jumana Latif	Michael Smith
Michael Dodson	Kathleen Ludowise	Mary Tietz
Mary Helen Doherty	Kenneth Mamitsaka	Ruth Van Sciver
Steve Drenker	Barbara Millin	Thu Vu
Randy Fox	Raj Minhas	Coburn Watson
Pam Frey	Jason Panza	Jim White
Regina Garcia	Andrea Perrault	Mary Yan
Karan Gathani	Kevin Pinson	Svejana Zorko
Pam Handley	Victor Rising	

And thank you to those who renewed their membership!

Check it out!

Please note that your membership expiration date is now listed above your name in the mailing address. We will still send renewal notices prior to your due date, but we thought you might appreciate having a date to keep in mind.
 Thank you for your continued support!

STAFF

Executive Director

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

Office Manager

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

Environmental Advocate

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

Environmental Advocacy Associate

Mackenzie Mossing, mackenziescvas@gmail.com
 (408) 394-0330

Burrowing Owl Conservation

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

Education and Outreach Manager

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

Education Programs Coordinator

Kelsey Frey, programs@scvas.org
 (408) 252-3740

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 10:00AM - 4:00PM
Tuesday - Friday 9:00AM - 4:30PM
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

President Diane Hart
Treasurer Don McDougall
Vice President Gabrielle Feldman
Secretary Joan Leighton

DIRECTORS

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