

Audubon Naturalist Training: Conservation Camp for High Schoolers

by Kelly Alfrey and Kelsey Frey, SCVAS Education and Outreach Team



2018 Inaugural Class of Audubon Naturalists by Ralph Schardt

As a small non-profit, we rely on support from our generous donors, members, and volunteers to carry out our mission to protect birds and other wildlife across Santa Clara County and beyond. Through this work we have come to recognize that one of the most crucial elements of effective environmental protection is education. To quote Baba Dioum, “In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand and we will understand only what we are taught” (thank you for this one, Julie Amato!). In a collaborative effort this summer, SCVAS staff, volunteers, and partners developed Audubon Naturalist Training to teach high school students to understand a little more, love a little more, and conserve a little more of the environment around them.

cont'd on page 4

Monthly Speaker Series

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

Wednesday, September 19 with Julio Mulero

The Quest to Photograph One of the Rarest Birds in North America

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska is home to one of the most elusive North American breeding birds, the Gray-headed Chickadee. This presentation chronicles the avifauna, landscapes, and logistics of getting to one of the most remote areas in North America. Julio is a long-time member of SCVAS and ABA, and one of his goals is to photo-document all regularly-breeding birds in the ABA continental checklist area.



Wednesday, October 17 with John Richardson

Alexander Humboldt's Web of Life - Birds of Colombia and Ecuador

Alexander Humboldt's numerous scientific observations at all geographical elevations of living organisms contributed to his theory of the unity of nature. As the father of biogeography, geomagnetics, and modern meteorology, Humboldt's body of work throughout his life was staggering, and more places and species are named after him than after any other human being. We'll cover just a snapshot of Humboldt's life and contributions.

September-October Field Trips

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

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/FieldTrips, 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.

Sunday, Sept. 2; 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. **KF-10+**

Wednesday, Sept. 5; 12:00PM

City of Sunnyvale Landfill

One hour. **Leader:** Allen Royer. Contact landfill coordinator, Silvana 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, Sept. 8; 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. **RC, KF-AA**

Sunday, Sept. 9; 7:00AM

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. **Note:** Earlier start time than usual. **RC, KF-AA**

Wednesday Sept. 12; 8:15AM

Vasona Lake County Park

Half day. **Leaders:** Eve Meier and Janna Pauser, (408) 569-9264. **Directions:** From Hwy 17, take the Lark Ave exit. Go west for 0.3 miles then turn left onto University Ave. In 1.4 miles, turn left onto Blossom Hill Rd. The park entrance will be on your left in 0.2 miles. Turn into first parking lot on your left after the kiosk. **Highlights:** Western Tanagers, passing migrants possible. **Difficulty:** Easy walking. **Notes:** We'll bird the south end of this popular Los Gatos park. Gate opens at 8:00AM. Parking fee is \$6 or free with SC county park pass. **RC**

Saturday, Sept. 15; 8:00AM

Arastradero Open Space Preserve

Half day. **Leader:** Rich Page, (408) 377-1092. **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:** Moderately strenuous hiking. **RC**

Sunday, Sept. 16; 8:00AM

Grant Ranch County Park

Half day. **Leader:** Steve Tracey, (408) 966-3860. **Directions:** Take Hwy 130 east for ~11 miles from I-680; or take Quimby Rd east ~7 miles from Capitol Expwy. Meet at Grant Lake parking area on Mt. Hamilton Rd (Hwy 130) on the left (coming from San Jose) 0.25 miles past the main park entrance (on the right). Parking here is free but limited, and we will be able to do some car shuffling with the parking in the main park if necessary. **Highlights:** We'll check out Grant

Lake and other park locations looking for fall migrants and resident birds. **Note:** There is an entry fee required (\$6 or SC County Park pass) for the main park area, which we will be entering at some point during the trip. **RC**

Tuesday, Sept. 18; 8:00AM

Eden Landing Ecological Reserve

Half day. **Leaders:** SFBBO Program Director Ben Pearl, and SCVAS Staff, (408) 252-3747. **Directions:** Meet at the parking lot at 26348 Eden Landing Rd. Take 880 N to 92 W, and get off on Clawiter Rd toward Eden Landing Rd. Continue on Eden Landing Rd for 0.5 miles and park in the lot at the end of the road. Or, take 92 E and turn right on Eden Landing Rd, then park in the lot. **Highlights:** We will look for banded Snowy Plovers with Ben Pearl to see if we can spot any locally fledged birds and migrants. We will also look for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. **Difficulty:** Easy few-mile walk along level ground. **RC**

Sunday, Sept. 23; 8:00AM

Alum Rock Park

Half day. **Leader:** Bill Pelletier, (408) 644-5583. **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 Rustic Lands parking lot (free). **Highlights:** Variety of habitats, including chaparral, riparian, mixed forests, grassland, and rocky terrain. We will look for Great Horned Owl, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, California Thrasher, Acorn Woodpecker, and more. **Difficulty:** Moderately strenuous 3-4-mile walk. **Notes:** Vehicle entry fee required. **RC, KF-14+**

Field Trips

cont'd

Friday, Sept. 28; 11:00AM

Ulistac Natural Area

(*NEW* Drop In Birding!)

2 hours. **Leaders:** Eve Meier and Chuq Von Rospach, (408) 221-0797. **Directions:** For directions, see write-up for Sept. 9, but we will meet at the north end of the park by the pedestrian entrance. **Highlights:** We will have binoculars available for public use to see migrating and local songbirds. This is not a walk, but a casual sit and wander. **RC, KF-AA**

Saturday, Sept. 29; 8:00AM

Moss Landing & Vicinity

Half day. **Leader:** Norm Kikuchi, (831) 251-0666. **Directions:** Meet in Moss Landing next to Sea Harvest Restaurant in the big parking lot and boat launch ramp just north of Hwy 1's Elkhorn Slough Bridge. **Highlights:** Shorebirds, waterfowl, and other migrants. **Notes:** Weather conditions can be highly variable so dress in layers. Bring water. **RC, KF-10+**

Sunday, Sept. 30; 9:00AM

Google Baylands Retention Basin

Half day. **Leader:** Ralph Schardt, (408) 624-7845. **Directions:** Take Shoreline Dr off of Hwy 101 and head east towards the bay. Turn right on Charleston Rd and park in one of the Google parking lots close to the corner of Charleston and Shorebird Way. **Highlights:** This has been a multi-year project to restore the ecosystem close to Google campus near Shoreline. If we have time, we can pop over to Stevens Creek and see shorebirds and others along the trail near the bay. **Difficulty:** Few-mile hike, mostly on level ground. **LO, RC, KF-AA**

Wednesday, Oct. 3; 12:00PM

City of Sunnyvale Landfill

One hour. **Leader:** Allen Royer. Contact landfill coordinator, Silvana Ruiz, with questions at (408) 730-7545. See write-up for Sept. 5. **RC, KF-10+**

Saturday, Oct. 6; 8:00AM

Natural Bridges State Park

Half day. **Leader:** Norm Kikuchi, (831) 251-0666. **Directions:** Take Hwy 17 to Santa Cruz and turn right on Mission St/Hwy 1 towards Half Moon Bay. Drive to the edge of town and turn left on Swift St then right on Delaware Ave. Meet at the back entrance to the park at the intersection of Delaware and Natural Bridges Dr. **RC, KF-10+**

Sunday, Oct. 7; 8:00AM

Stevens Creek County Park

Half day. **Leader:** Dave Zittin, (408) 515-7104. **Directions:** From I-280 in Cupertino take Foothill Expy 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 a riparian area. **Notes:** Vehicle entry fee required. **RC**

Wednesday Oct. 10; 8:00AM

Santa Clara Valley Water District, 5700 Almaden Expressway

Half day. **Leaders:** Eve Meier and Janna Pauser, (408) 569-9264. **Directions:** From Hwy 85, take the Almaden Expwy exit south. Drive south on Almaden Expwy. In 0.6 miles, make a left at Via Monte Dr (first light after crossing Blossom Hill). Enter the SCVWD parking lot and park in the visitors parking at the north end or any nearby unmarked parking space. **Highlights:** We will bird the park-like property with pond and check Guadalupe River for waterfowl, sparrows, and late migrants. **Difficulty:** Easy walking. **Notes:** Earlier start time than usual. **RC**

Friday, Oct. 12; 11:00AM

Palo Alto Baylands

(*NEW* Drop In Birding!)

2 hours. **Leaders:** Eve Meier and Chuq Von Rospach, (408) 221-0797. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 in Palo Alto turn right onto Embarcadero Rd. At the stop sign

(not light), go left and follow the road to the parking lot by the duck pond. **Highlights:** We will have binoculars available for public use to see migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. We may also lead a short bird walk! **RC, KF-AA**

Saturday, Oct. 13; 8:00AM

Moss Landing & Vicinity

Half day. **Leader:** Norm Kikuchi, (831) 251-0666. See write-up for Sept. 29. **RC, KF-10+**

Sunday, Oct. 14; 9:00AM

Vasona Lake County Park (Hike It Baby Event)

2 hours. **Leaders:** Hike It Baby Coordinators and Kelsey Frey, (408) 981-6965. **Directions:** From Hwy 17, take the Lark Ave exit. Continue straight then turn right to stay on Garden Hill Way, and park south of Kingston Hill Way for free parking. We will meet at the back entrance by Vasona Dam. **Difficulty:** Toddler-paced 1-mile walk along the lake. **Notes:** SCVAS and Hike It Baby are co-hosting this walk. Participants must sign up for a free 90-day trial membership with Hike It Baby before attending (for liability purposes only, you do NOT need to give credit card info). Go to hikeitbaby.com to sign up. **RC, KF-AA**

Saturday, Oct. 27; 8:00AM

Oka Ponds

Half day. **Leader:** Rich Page, (408) 377-1092. **Directions:** Take Hwy 17 S to Lark Ave exit, turn right onto Oka Rd, then turn left onto W Mozart Ave, and turn right onto Oka Ln. Meet at the park entrance at the end of the road. Please be respectful in parking in and around this neighborhood. **RC**

Sunday, Oct. 28; 9:00AM

Charleston Slough

Half day. **Leader:** Allen Royer, (408) 288-7768. See write-up for Sept. 2. **RC, KF-10+**

Audubon Naturalist Training was a crash course on how to be a naturalist - in just seven days, students were taught numerous outdoor skills and studied California ecology. SCVAS staff spent months planning and preparing for the training, bringing in partner organizations and collaborators to ensure that the naturalists-in-training were learning from top-notch conservationists. While students were grasping the fundamentals of bird identification and wildlife tracking, we were learning from them. This inaugural class of Audubon Naturalists gave us valuable experience that will enable us to evolve the curriculum for future classes. We received wonderful feedback and look forward to leading high school students through this program for years to come.

It doesn't end here! Look out for Audubon Naturalists at upcoming SCVAS field trips and outreach events - students seeking official Audubon Naturalist Certification must continue exercising their skills as support naturalists over the coming year. Thank you to all of the families and friends who have supported our students throughout their training, and to the docents, volunteers, and donors who helped us make this training possible. We look forward to another successful training next year! To learn more about what you can do to support SCVAS education programs, contact Kelly Alfrey at outreach@scvas.org or Kelsey Frey at programs@scvas.org.

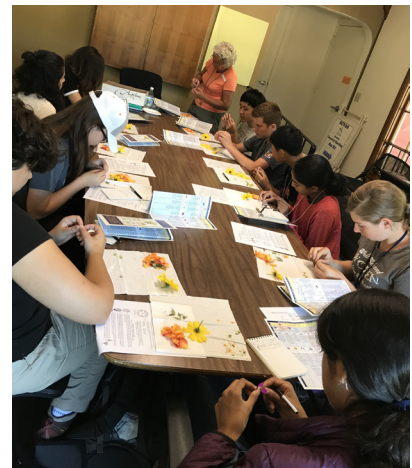
Audubon Naturalist Training 2018



Day 1 - Bird ID
with SCVAS Staff member,
Carolyn Knight



Day 2 - Wildlife Tracking
with SCVAS Staff member,
Kelsey Frey



Day 3 - Plant ID
with SCVAS and CNPS Volunteer,
Vicki Silvas-Young



Day 4 - Insect ID
with Grassroots Ecology



Days 5&6 - Nature Interpretation
with SCVAS Volunteer, Julie Amato, and
Executive Director, Ralph Schardt



Day 7 - Graduation!
Students led nature walks for their
families and SCVAS docents

Conservation Corner: Our Environmental Advocacy Team Needs Your Support!

by Shani Kleinhaus and Mackenzie Mossing

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is one of the most active and successful conservation organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area. Over the past year, our Environmental Advocacy Team has engaged in dozens of issues that are critical to protecting birds, wildlife, and habitat in Santa Clara County and beyond. Through our efforts we have delivered significant conservation victories on state, regional, and local levels. *We could not do this important work without your help.*

Looking back on the past year, we have many accomplishments to celebrate. Here are some highlights of our work:

- Measure B on San Jose's 2018 primary ballot put Coyote Valley, North San Jose, and the Evergreen Foothills in the crosshairs for residential sprawl, threatening thousands of acres of open space with development. Together with other environmental organizations, community leaders, advocates, and volunteers, our team spent the better part of 2018 engaged in a grassroots campaign to defeat the measure. Measure B lost by a landslide at the ballot box.
- Our ongoing campaign for bird-safe building design in Santa Clara County made great strides. We successfully advocated for bird-safe design in several planning efforts and development projects, including the North Bayshore Precise Plan in Mountain View, the new Vallco shopping center in Cupertino, and the future Civic Center (County headquarters) in Downtown San Jose.
- We participated as a stakeholder for Cupertino's new Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Our engagement is evident in the draft plan, as it includes science-based objectives aimed at preserving and restoring habitat in Cupertino's parks to reflect our region's ecology. Goals in the plan call for habitat connectivity, pollinator gardens, water sources for birds, and increased tree canopy, to name a few.



Murmuration over Coyote Valley by Merav Vonshak

There is still a lot of work to do. We are currently engaged in a number of efforts to protect open space, creeks, birds and wildlife from habitat degradation and development:

- As Burrowing Owls continue to decline in Santa Clara County, we are working with partners regionally and statewide to study the status of Burrowing Owls and implement emergency strategies to save them locally. At the same time, we are advocating with both Google and the City of Mountain View to install fencing around Burrowing Owl habitat at Shoreline Park.
- The City of Campbell is in the process of updating their General Plan – a blueprint for future development in the city. As the Bay Area continues to boom, significant redevelopment is expected along the Los Gatos Creek Corridor, and so we have been advocating for policies that protect riparian habitat, birds, and wildlife from encroachment.
- Approved by Santa Clara County voters in 2012, the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program gave Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) the go ahead to start planning the separation of Ogier Ponds (Coyote Valley) from Coyote Creek in order to improve fish habitat and migration. Ogier Ponds is important to birders, and we see this as a unique opportunity to restore seasonal wetland habitat on the valley floor for birds and other wildlife. We are advocating with SCVWD and the County for a plan that prioritizes natural resources and includes a mosaic of habitats for birds.

DONATE TO OUR ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN TODAY!

You can support our efforts to protect birds and other wildlife by making a tax-deductible donation to our Environmental Advocacy Campaign today.

Your donation will go directly towards helping us achieve our goals for conservation and allow us to expand our impact.

Support environmental advocacy at scvas.org/donate.

Field Notes

(June-July 2018)

by Pete Dunten

Swans through Least Terns

A single **Mute Swan** arrived on Alviso Salt Pond A16 on 29 Jun and has stayed through the period (LL, m. ob.). Rare summering ducks included single **Canvasbacks** on Pond A1 on 2 Jun (WGB) and on a closed refuge pond on 23 Jun (RJ, MJM, MR). A single **Redhead** was found on 2 Jun on Pond A3W during the Palo Alto Summer Count (fide WGB). Six were counted on closed refuge ponds on 23 Jun (RJ, MJM, MMR). Then on 29 Jun a female Redhead was photographed with five ducklings in tow (LL). The family group was seen in the vicinity of New Chicago Marsh through 12 Jul (MB, STu, RPh, GL). A single Redhead was on Pond A3W on 29 Jul (RJ, MJM). Redhead have not been confirmed breeding since 1984. They were absent during the summer in ten of the twenty years prior to 2012. Since then Redhead have been found every summer, albeit in low numbers. Other summering diving ducks included single **Common Goldeneye** at Sunnyvale WPCP on 24 Jun (MSh) and one on Pond A3W on 29 Jul (MJM, RJ). Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** on 23 Jun were unseasonal, with one on Alviso Salt Pond A16 and one on a closed refuge pond (both MJM, RJ, MMR). Both **Clark's** and **Western Grebes** nested successfully at Calero Reservoir this summer. Western Grebes were seen on nests on 17 Jun (MJM) and 26 Jun (JPa), and a young grebe was present on 16 Jul (JPa). Young Clark's Grebes were with doting parents on 30 Jul (JPa). The **Swainson's Hawk** pair nesting in Coyote Valley also had a good year, with two young seen together with one of the adults on 21 Jul (RPh). A single **Virginia Rail** was found at Sunnyvale WPCP on 6 Jul (JMa). These elusive rails may breed at the WPCP, but conclusive evidence is hard to come by. **Black Rails** were hard to miss in June and July, with one to two at the triangle marsh near Salt Ponds A15 and A17 between 23

– 28 Jun (RJ, EvM, PL, WP), one in Alviso Slough adjacent to Salt Pond A12 on 10 Jul (JC), and as many as five at the Alviso Marina between 30 Jun (PB) and 30 Jul (m. ob.). Remarkably, a **Northern Mockingbird** was heard mimicking Black Rail calls at the Don Edwards NWR EEC on 7 Jul (STu). Shorebird migration got underway in July. A **Black Oystercatcher** wandered into the Alviso area on 24 Jul (LL). The first **Lesser Yellowlegs** of the fall graced New Chicago Marsh

Only one **Elegant Tern** visited the county in July, staying at Pond A2E just long enough to be photographed on 26 Jul (LL). Peak counts occur between mid-August and the first week of November. Dispersing **Least Terns**, on the move following breeding further north in the bay, reached us on 13 Jul when one was spotted at Pond A2E (GL, RPh). The high count through the end of July was five, two adults and three young, on 25 Jul at the same location (WGB).



Black Turnstone by Tom Grey

on 10 Jul (BM). Two **Black Turnstones** roosting with other shorebirds at Palo Alto Baylands on 22 Jul were a nice find (LL). Black Turnstones frequent rocky coasts and do not often visit the South Bay. Single **Ruddy Turnstones** turned up at the Stevens Creek delta on 23 Jul (LL) and on the levee between Alviso Salt Ponds A10/A11 on 29 Jul (RJ, MJM). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** along the Don Edwards NWR entrance road on 6 Jul (LL) was on schedule. The first fall arrival has been in the first week of July in roughly one-third of the years for which we have records (fide WGB). The shorebird assemblage at Palo Alto Baylands on 22 Jul included two **Red Knots** in addition to the Black Turnstones (LL). The first **Dunlin** of the fall was a lone bird in Crittenden Marsh on 24 Jul (GL).

Swifts through Lawrence's Goldfinch

The June through July period is unusual in that there is overlap between late spring migrants and early fall shorebird migration. A **Black Swift** passed over Black Rd on 1 Jun (BM), the second spring migrant of the year. A migrant **Purple Martin** passed over Henry Coe SP on 10 Jun (MMR, RJ). Another was at Calero Reservoir, not far from their known breeding range in the Santa Cruz Mountains, on 16 Jul (JPa). Two **Bank Swallows** joined the mixed flock of swallows at Alviso Marina CP on 29 Jul (RBk). They are summer visitors in the June – July period in roughly one year in three. Twelve **Cedar Waxwings** at Ulistac NA were the last to depart on 4 Jun (GL). A single Cedar Waxwing

Field Notes *cont'd*

was noted along the Calero Creek Trail on 10 Jul (HM); waxwings are rare in the summer in the county, though they have successfully nested at least once, in 2002. **Phainopepla** is another uncommon summer visitor to the Santa Clara Valley; one was at the Santa Clara Valley Water District in Almaden Valley on 1 Jul (AVe). An **Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler** along the Skyline Trail on 5 Jul was singing (WGB). Yellow-rumps nest at elevation along the western edge of the county in the Santa Cruz Mountains. A **White-crowned Sparrow** on 3 Jul at the Don Edwards NWR EEC was unusual given the date (WA). On 13 Jul, a White-crowned Sparrow found at the same location was missing its tail (DN). **Lawrence's Goldfinches** continued to be found at elevation on both sides of the Santa Clara Valley, with notable high counts of eight at Blue Oak Ranch Reserve on 8 Jun (DR) and nine at Loma Prieta on 15 Jul (RPh). At lower elevation, a pair were found in the foothills of the Santa Cruz range at the Stanford Dish on 2 Jun during the Palo Alto Summer Count (WP, GL, KON, SPz, GRy), and two were at Santa Teresa CP on 5 Jun (JRy).



Ruddy Turnstone by Tom Grey

Observers: Will Anderson (WA), Patrick Baglee (PB), Ralph Baker (RBk), Meg Barron (MBa), Bill Bousman (WGB), Jay Carroll (JCa), Richard Jeffers (RJ), Garrett Lau (GL), Louise Liou (LL), Patricia Lynch (PL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Juliana Manoliu (JMa), Hugh McDevitt (HM), Eve Meier (EvM), Brooke Miller (BM), David Nickerson (DN), Kitty O'Neil (KON), Janna Pauser (JPa), William Pelletier (WP), Sergio Perez (SPz), Ryan Phillips (RPh), David Rankin (DR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Jennifer Rycenga (JRy), Gordon Rydquist (GRy), Mike Shafto (MSh), Steve Tucker (STu), Ann Verdi (AVe)

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

Wetlands Discovery Program Docent Training

We need your help to get local students excited about conservation!



Want to get more involved in your community? Become a Wetlands Discovery Program docent!

- Training Session 1: In-class Activities, McClellan Ranch Preserve
Tuesday, September 11, 10:00AM-12:00PM
- Training Session 2: Field Trip Component, Charleston Slough
Thursday, September 13, 9:00-11:00AM

RSVP to Kelsey Frey, Education Programs Coordinator, at (408) 252-3740 or programs@scvas.org.
For more information, go to scvas.org and click on the Education tab, then "Become a Docent."

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society & City of Cupertino present:

Wildlife & Harvest Day

- Free & family friendly!
- Live animals & presentations
- Arts & crafts
- Pumpkin patch
- Environmental organizations
- And so much more!!

Early Bird Shorebird Walk

Families can join us at Charleston Slough at 8:00AM to see shorebirds and waterfowl!

RSVP at scvas.org/WildlifeDay

Check out our 2017 winning logo!
Thanks, Indira Abhyanker! (8th grade)



Saturday, October 20, 2018

10:00AM - 3:00PM

Blackberry Farm in Cupertino

For more information, go to scvas.org/WildlifeDay.

Events Calendar

Wed. 9/5 & 10/3; 7:30-9:00PM

Bay Area Bird Photographers

Embarcadero Room, Rinconada Library
1213 Newell Rd, Palo Alto

Topic 9/5: Bring Your Own Photos Night

Topic 10/3: "The Lowdown on Getting High in Columbia"

with Bob Lewis

See scvas.org/babp for details.

Tues. 9/11 & 10/9; 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.

*This is the 50th Anniversary of the Eve Case Group!

Congrats, and thank you for your dedication to birds!*

Topic 9/11: The Owls Around Us

Topic 10/9: Gulls of California

Fri. 9/14 & 10/12; 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 details.

Thurs. 9/20; 7:00-9:00PM

Cavity Nesters Recovery Program

End-of-Season Pizza Party

McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino

Current nest box monitors and people interested in the program are invited to attend. See page 10 for details.

Young Audubon Activities

Wed. 9/26 & 10/24; 10:00-11:15AM

Toddler Explorers

McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino

Join SCVAS and Sierra Club - Loma Prieta Chapter for a free toddler discovery program including bird feeding, creek exploration, and story time. *Toddlers must be accompanied by an adult.*

Space is limited, RSVP required - details and registration at scvas.org/YoungAudubon.

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

Wildlife & Harvest Day

Blackberry Farm

21979 San Fernando Ave, Cupertino

Join SCVAS and the City of Cupertino for a fun, family-friendly event to celebrate wildlife and the harvest season! Details above.

SCVAS Classes

We are pleased to offer the following classes to our members and community. For more information, please call the Office at (408) 252-3747 or visit our website at scvas.org.

Coyote by Ralph Schardt



Outdoor Photography

Dates: Thursday, Sept. 13 and Tuesday, Oct. 23

Time: 8:45-11:00AM *Rain cancels, with refund or credit for future classes.

Location: McClellan Ranch, Cupertino - Meet at SCVAS Office

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

Register: Find the class on our calendar at scvas.org and pay by phone or online.

Description: Come explore the diversity of birds that arrive at McClellan Ranch Preserve in early fall. Our Executive Director, Ralph Schardt, will show you field techniques and tricks for getting better bird and wildlife/macro photographs. Wear layers and clothing appropriate for an easy hike on level, but unpaved trails.



Bird and Plant ID Walk by Arvind Kumar

Beginner's Bird and Plant ID Walk Series

Date: Sunday, Sept. 23 **Time:** 9:00AM-12:00PM

Location: Lake Cunningham Park

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

Register: RSVP to Arvind Kumar (arvind.kumar@cnps.org) to receive directions and details.

Description: First Day of Fall! Do you love being outdoors? Do you want to deepen your appreciation of nature by learning to identify the birds and plants around you? As fall begins, join us for the third walk of its kind this year: a beginner's bird and plant identification walk through Lake Cunningham Park. Lake Cunningham is a major destination for waterfowl and migratory birds, and its native garden is home to many resident birds. On this walk, 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, and binoculars. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

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

McClellan Feeder Birds by Kelsey Frey



Get Started Birding in Santa Clara Valley

Classroom Session: Thursday, Oct. 4 at McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino; 7:00-9:00PM

Field Session: Saturday, Oct. 6 at Charleston Slough, Mountain View (meet at the end of Terminal Blvd); 8:30-10:30AM

Cost: Free!

Register: Find the class on our calendar at scvas.org and RSVP to reserve your spot.

Description: If you are curious about identifying and observing birds around your neighborhood, join us for a classroom session and nature walk to get started with birdwatching. We'll cover birding basics - families of common birds, their habitats, how to tell them apart, and how to use binoculars. You'll learn where to find birds in different seasons and tides. Dig into your local environment with this introductory class and get ready to fall in love.

Instructor Mary Wisniewski started birding just over twenty years ago after taking a class just like this one. She has long been a fan of SCVAS field trips, which introduced her to many of her favorite birding destinations in California. Mary is a longtime participant in local Christmas Bird Counts, Jack Laws' Nature Journal Club, and the SCVAS Spring Birdathon. She has just completed a course in Ecology of the Sierra Nevada at West Valley College.

Listening for the Birds

Classroom Session: Tuesday, Oct. 23 at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher, 792 Blossom Hill Rd; 7:00-8:30PM

Field Session: Saturday, Oct. 27 at McClellan Ranch Preserve; 8:30-11:00AM

Cost: \$35

Register: Call the Los Gatos Birdwatcher to sign-up 408-358-9453.

Description: Learning to use your ears will aid you greatly in identifying and finding your birds. This workshop will concentrate on how to use bird calls and chip notes when birding. While there is less song during the fall, birds continue to communicate using other types of vocalization, so we'll cover the differences between birdsong and chip notes. We will concentrate on the birds we can find here in the Bay Area in the fall and into the winter. We will review Yellow-rumped Warbler, Spotted Towhee, Cedar Waxwing, Anna's Hummingbird, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Bewick's Wren, and both the White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrow.

Organized by SCVAS and Los Gatos Birdwatcher



Bewick's Wren by Tony Woo

Friends of SCVAS

Gifts received June 1st through July 31st, 2018

Gift

(Up to \$99)

John & Agnes Caulfield
Rachelle Curry
Michael Firenze
Marilyn Lassagne
David Lewis
Marilyn McCarthy
Steve McHenry
Donna Meyer
Laura Stefanski
Carolyn Straub

Avocet Sponsor
(\$100-\$249)

Linda Brownrigg
Peter & Melanie Cross
Eric Wong
Gabrielle Feldman
Catherine Frantz
E.V. & Charlotte Niemeyer
Richard Page
Don & Kathy Priest
Gail Richardson
Mary Ann Robertson
Stephen Rosenthal

Pat Rovegno
Vicki Silvas-Young
Ralph Schardt
Jessica Williams-Carson

Burrowing Owl
(\$250-\$499)

Darya Chudova
Philippe Cohen
Jan Hintermeister
Elaine Kitagawa
Don & Mary McDougall
Ernest & Jean Renzel III

Pati Rouzer
Ruth Troetschler

Peregrine Falcon
(\$500-\$999)

Peter & Diane Hart
Harriett Huls

Golden Eagle
(\$1000+)

Charlene & Derry
Kabcenell
Nancy Teater &
Richard Johnson

- Special Thanks -

SCVAS is extremely grateful to IBM for awarding us a Community Grant to continue building nest box kits for local elementary students. Long-time SCVAS volunteer, Chuck Wade, applies for this grant each year on our behalf, and then immediately gets to work recruiting a woodworking crew to assemble kits in time for the school year and Wildlife & Harvest Day. We are inspired by Chuck's dedication and ambition, and so thankful for all of his hardwork to educate students of all ages about bird habitat.

Thank you, Chuck and IBM!

This summer's Audubon Naturalist Training was made possible through many collaborations, and also by the incredible generosity of our supporters. As students navigated through each day's lessons, they were equipped with "Naturalist Toolkits" - backpacks filled with pocket field guides, journal and pen, water bottle, hat, compass, and first aid kits. Generous donations from Patagonia Palo Alto and long-time SCVAS supporter, Pati Rouzer, helped make these toolkits possible, and we are thankful for their support.

Thank you, Pati and Patagonia Palo Alto!

Calling All Cavity Nesters Recovery Program Monitors!

The end of the breeding season is upon us, so don't forget to submit your data! Our End-of-Season Dinner will take place at McClellan Ranch in Cupertino on **Thursday, September 20th at 7:00PM**. This year we are changing things up a bit and SCVAS is providing pizza and drinks instead of the usual pot-luck. So bring your data and your appetite! People outside of the program and interested in learning more are also welcome to attend!

This gathering will be more exciting and informative if you **have your data submitted by then** (a week prior would be best). Links to the database form and instructions for submitting can be found at scvas.org/CNRP. Your data is crucial - it contributes to a nationwide effort to monitor bird populations and helps us make decisions about CNRP as a whole. Thank you for your monitoring and data collection work!

To RSVP to the End-of-Season Pizza Party, go to scvas.org/CNRP. See you there!



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

NEW Hours:

Mon-Thurs 10:00AM-4:30PM

Sat 10:00AM-2:00PM

Volunteers are wanted to run the shop on Fridays - please call the office for details and up-to-date Friday operating hours.

Thank you all for your support! Don't forget that members receive 10% off, and volunteers get 20% off. See you in the shop soon for your next seed purchase!



**ONLY
\$16.50**

Check out our brand new SCVAS logo water bottles by Contigo!

Members Library Corner

by Gail Bower, SCVAS Library Volunteer

Questions about books in our Library? Call the Office at (408) 252-3747.

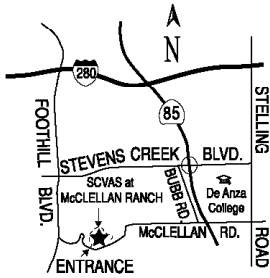


Did you know that we have a Members Library at McClellan Ranch? There are tons of great bird and birding books for reference, travel, inspiration or just plain old summer reading pleasure. At the Member & Volunteer Appreciation Dinner we had several people come to the book sale table and ask about books covering the birds of China - we have one such book in the Members Library that you can check out and enjoy, *The Birds of China*, covering 1195 species, by Rodolphe Meyer De Schauensee, Curator Emeritus of Birds at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, PA. ***Come and check out this book and peruse the entire library anytime during regular Nature Shop hours - see above.***

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 June 1st - July 31st, 2018.

We look forward to a great year with your support!

Darya Chudova	Ruchi Gupta	Jason Pan
Lisa De Golier	Monica Iglecia	Alfred and Catherine Rugel
Leslie Erganian Wagener	Paul Jacobs	Michael Rumer
Holly Essmeier	Saad Khanani	Aparna Sherlekar Banerjee
Catherine Fararjeh	Kyung Kim	Ana Simoes
Erin Fisher	Tovi Levy	Anne Stauffer
Catherine Frantz	Radel Liban	Timothy Thompson
Jessica Gachet	Juliana Manoliu	Jessica Webb
Ellen Gilkerson	Claudia McCoy	Dennis C Wheeler
Mohana Gomatam	Anne Mingst	Stacie Williams
Richard Greene	Gina Morimoto	Jessica Williams Carson

And thank you to those who renewed their membership!

Check it out!

If you receive the mailed version of our newsletter, your membership expiration date is 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

April Austin, scvas@scvas.org
(408) 252-3747

Environmental Advocate

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

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

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

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

Details available on the SCVAS website.

NATURE SHOP HOURS

Monday - Thursday 10:00AM - 4:30PM
Friday *Call Office*
Saturday 10:00AM - 2:00PM

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
Diane Hart	Don McDougall
Vice President	Secretary
Vivek Khanzode	Joan Leighton

DIRECTORS

Mike Armer	John Richardson
Gabrielle Feldman	
Peter Hart	
Bob Hirt	

2018 Volume 66, Number 5

C1ZC140Z

Avocet Editor: Kelly Alfrey
Assistant Avocet Editor: Kelsey Frey