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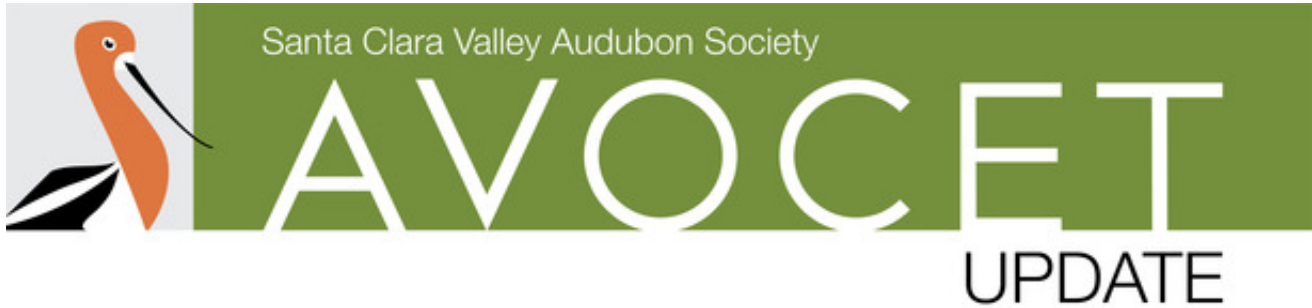
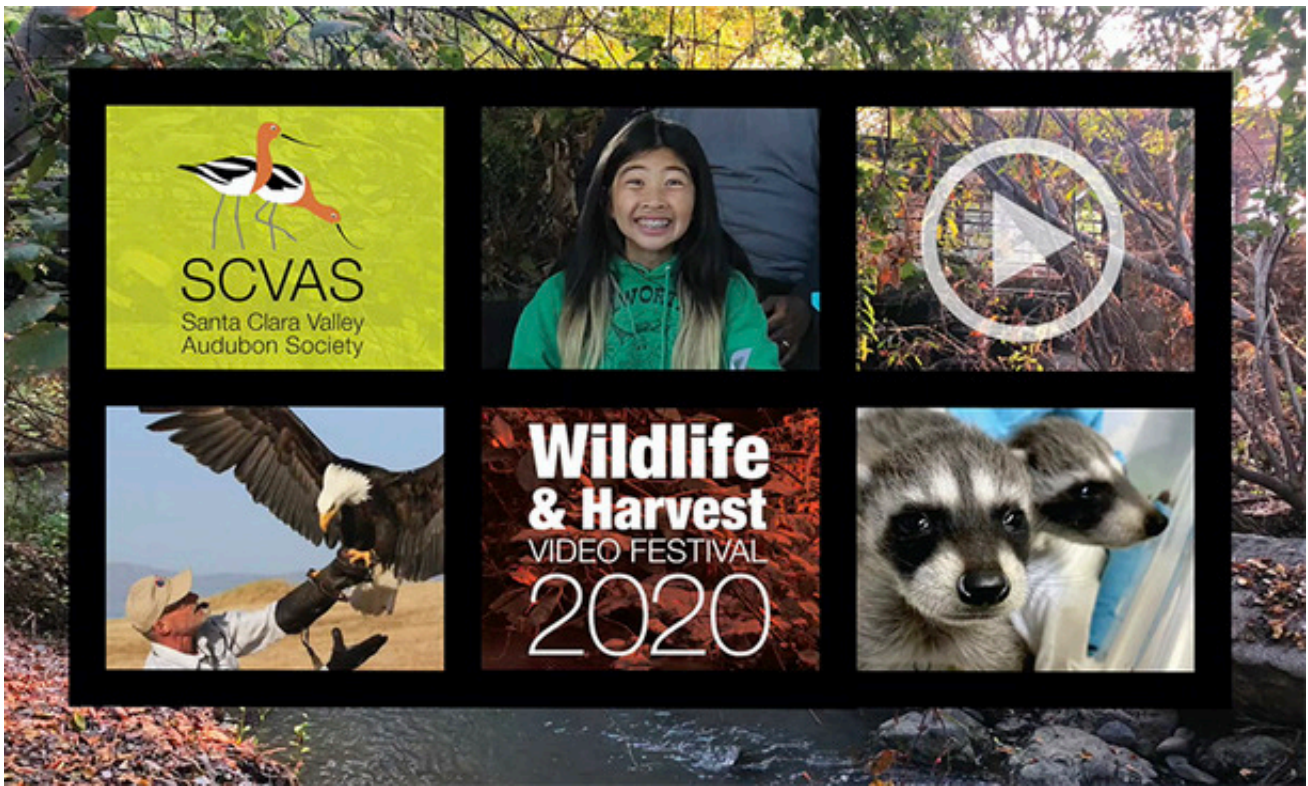


Photo: Brooke Miller

Welcome to the **Avocet Update** for November 2020. This monthly email to our members highlights upcoming events, environmental alerts, and other items of interest for the coming month. We have exciting items to share, including new videos, new birding locations to enjoy during sweater weather, and another fantastic Speaker event via Zoom.

~Matthew Dodder, Executive Director

**THE 2020 WILDLIFE & HARVEST VIDEO FESTIVAL:**



**Welcome to Wildlife & Harvest Day 2020!**  
**October 24 - Thanksgiving**

**Check it out!** You can explore our participants, find crafting materials, and see every video we've made to celebrate our local wildlife and ecology. New videos released each day, Monday through Friday during the festival window.

**ONLINE SPEAKER SERIES:**



John Richardson:

**The Tanzania Experience**

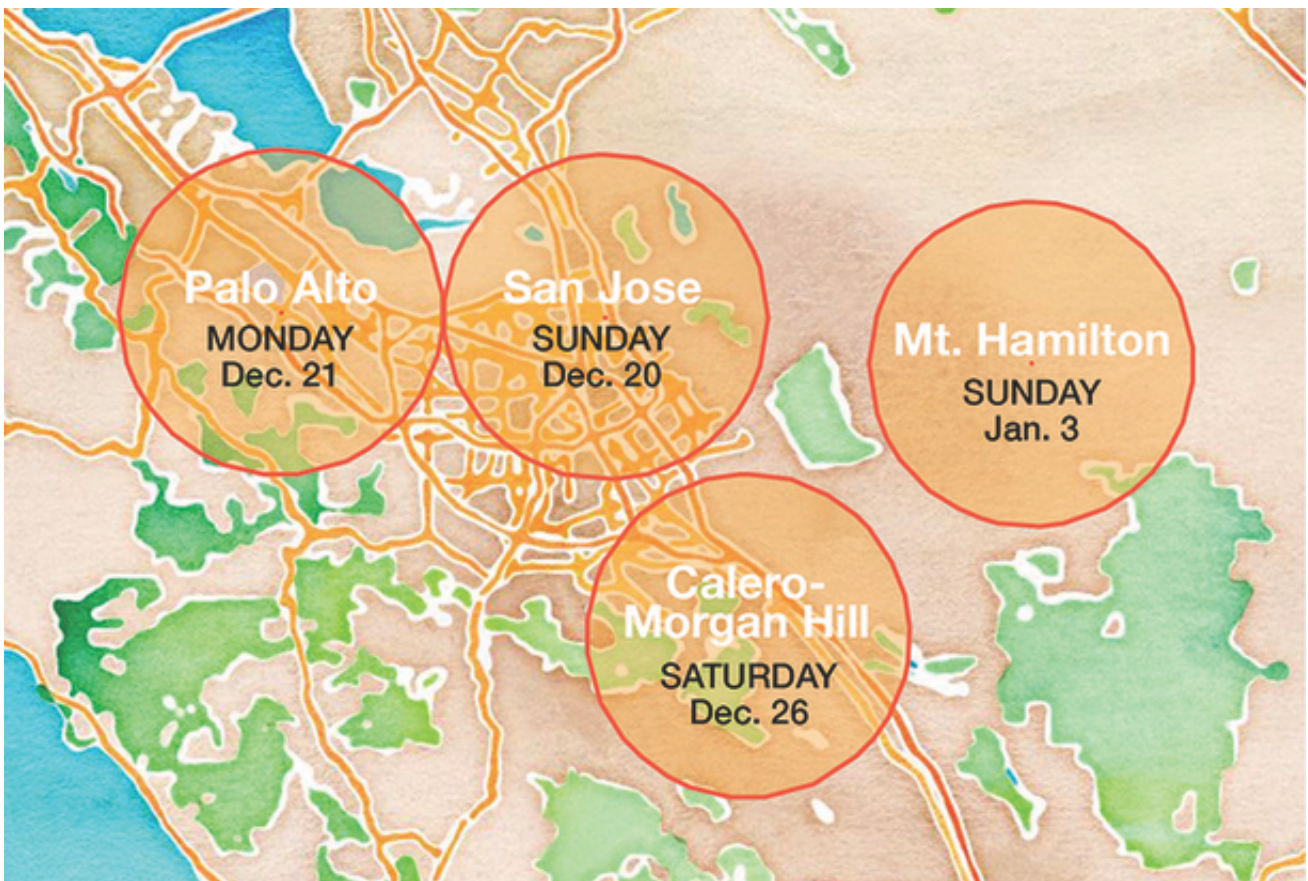
Richardson, a world-traveller, adventurer and photographer, will give a passionate account of Tanzania's great Serengeti, Ngorongoro, Tarangire national parks with personal stories and his breathtaking images.

**November 18 (Wednesday)**

**7:00-8:30 PM via Zoom**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

**CBC:**



Held each year since 1900, the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) now enlists tens of thousands of volunteers across the Americas to conduct a bird census. Between December 14 and January 15, Audubon organizes these volunteers into a series of 15-mile diameter "Count Circles" to count all the individual birds of all the bird species that they can find on Count Day. The CBC data helps Audubon scientists evaluate the long-term health and status of bird populations, work to protect birds and their habitat, and identify environmental issues and trends. Learn more [at the national CBC website](#).

Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, our SCVAS CBC counts will implement safety protocols and may operate differently than in past years. SCVAS organizes four Count Circles: Palo Alto, San Jose, Mount Hamilton, and Calero-Morgan Hill. Our [CBC website](#) will provide current information on CBC plans, and connect you to Count Circle leaders. Contact your Count Circle leaders to learn more!

## **INSTAGRAM:**



SCVAS has a new social media page in Instagram, managed by volunteer field trip leaders Laura Coatney and Dani Christensen! Check it out at [Instagram.com/scvasaudubon](https://www.instagram.com/scvasaudubon), or on the Instagram app @scvasaudubon

## **PROJECT FEEDERWATCH:**



Photo: Hita Bambhania-Modha

This winter, **join FeederWatch** and count birds for science!

FeederWatch, a citizen science project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, starts in November. **Count the birds you see outside your window** at times that work for you, and submit your counts online - it's fun, easy, and helps the birds! [Learn more and join here.](#)

## **BACKYARD BIRDS:**



Photo: Brooke Miller

**Crowned sparrows** have arrived! **Learn all about them** in [November's Backyard Bird of the Month](#) by Dave Zittin.

Backyard birder Julie Amato has been seeing sparrows and other birds lately. **Discover what she's spotted**, and **what birds to look for now in your yard**, in this month's [Notes and Tips from a Backyard Birder](#).

**Tell us what birds are in your yard!** Send your notes, photos, and sound clips to [backyardbirds@scvas.org](mailto:backyardbirds@scvas.org). We'll feature a selection of your submittals on our website.

## **MORE SELF-GUIDED TRIPS:**

### **November Self-Guided Trip Announcement**

Need help finding great birding spots and figuring out what to look for? Check out these self-guided field trips for November. The fall season is a great time to observe wintering ducks at the bay or any of Santa Clara County's inland lakes and ponds. Or, now that the weather is cooling, head to the grassy hills at Coyote Lake County Park or try the redwoods along the John Nicholas Trail. You can even bird by bike at Ogier Ponds!

- **Bayfront:** [Marsh Birds And Wintering Waterfowl On The San Francisquito Creek Trail](#) by Adam Burnett (Accessible)
- **East Hills:** [Autumn at Coyote Lake County Park's Mendoza Ranch Area](#) by Michael Hawk
- **East Hills:** [Un Paseo Por El Lago Sandy Wool](#) por Laura Coatney, traducido por Carlos Marquez Garcia
- **South County:** [Birding by Bike: Ogier Ponds in Winter](#) by Dani Christensen
- **Urban Areas:** [Going On A Snipe Hunt At Los Capitancillos Ponds](#) by Eve Meier

(Accessible)

- **West Hills:** [John Nicholas Trail In Fall And Winter](#) by Luis Villablanca

Visit our webpage to see [past months' recommendations](#) or use our [index](#) to see all of our recommendations.

**SCVAS would like to hear from you!** Do you have a favorite place you love to bird that you would like to recommend to our members? Is there a place you would like to learn more about? If so, please email [scvasfieldtrips@gmail.com](mailto:scvasfieldtrips@gmail.com).

## **ADVOCACY UPDATE:**



Photo: Carolyn Knight

### **Conservation Corner**

Advocacy efforts and campaigns take a very long time, and several of our 2020 engagements are nearing significant milestones or are expected to conclude this winter. We are currently looking for volunteers to help us advocate for birds and nature in our communities. To learn more about volunteering, please contact [shani@scvas.org](mailto:shani@scvas.org).

### **Bird Safe Design and Dark Sky**

Collisions with glass windows, building facades and other structural elements cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of birds every year. Artificial light at night exacerbates this problem. To help reduce collisions, we continue to advocate in **Cupertino** for a **Bird Safe Design and Dark Sky ordinances**. We hope that by the time the Winter Avocet is published, these ordinances will be adopted by the Cupertino City Council. Similarly in **San Jose**, we hope that the **City-wide Design Standards and Guidelines** will provide strong protections for birds. Hopefully, we will have good news to share at the close of the year.

### **Coyote Valley**

Our decades-long efforts to protect the entire 7400-acres **Coyote Valley** are moving forwards as the City of San Jose explores protections from urbanization and sprawl as part of the Envision San José 2040 General Plan four-year review. In this process, the City has



incorporated many of our suggested Amendments to the General Plan. If adopted by Council, the amendments will:

- Reallocate all 35,000 planned jobs from North Coyote to other areas in San José. North Coyote Valley will no longer be considered an Employment Lands Growth Area in the General Plan.
- Change the land use designations of the 937 acres in North Coyote that have been purchased earlier this year for preservation from Industrial Park to Open Space, Parklands and Habitat.
- Change the land use designations of other undeveloped properties in North Coyote Valley from Industrial Park to Agriculture, (with the exception of Gavilan College Coyote Valley Center).
- Explore a credits program to support further conservation actions in Coyote Valley and facilitate development in urbanized areas of San Jose.
- Create a new Coyote Valley Agriculture Overlay that increases the minimum lot size from 20-acres to 40-acres on some agricultural properties.
- and more...

If these recommendations are adopted by Council, natural and working lands will be protected, and the Open Space Authority can start working on long-term restoration of wildlife (and bird) habitat and on regenerative agriculture in the valley.



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