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July 2020

Welcome to the **Avocet Update**, a monthly email to our members (published the last week of each month) that will spotlight upcoming events, field trips, environmental alerts, and other items of interest for the coming month. If you wish to unsubscribe to this communication you are free to do so, but we suggest giving it a read first, then decide...

~ **Matthew Dodder, Executive Director**

ANNUAL MEETING:

This annual event is usually held in June, but due to COVID, we have decided to postpone it

until September. It is very likely it will be a virtual event, but the details have yet to be figured out. We will let you know as soon as we have the format and event specifics finalized. Rest assured, it will be wonderful, because we wouldn't want anything less. Stay tuned...

SPEAKER SERIES (Online):

We have missed holding our traditional Speaker Series the past few months, but beginning in July we will bring speakers to our members via online meetings. We are so happy to present Ben Pearl as our first speaker in this online series.



Ben Pearl

On Snowy Plovers and Least Terns of Eden Landing

The Western Snowy Plover is a federally threatened species, while the California Least Tern is a federally endangered species. Join us as SFBBO biologist, Ben Pearl explains about both species and the efforts to protect them here in the Bay Area and at the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve in Alameda County. Mark your calendars!

July 1

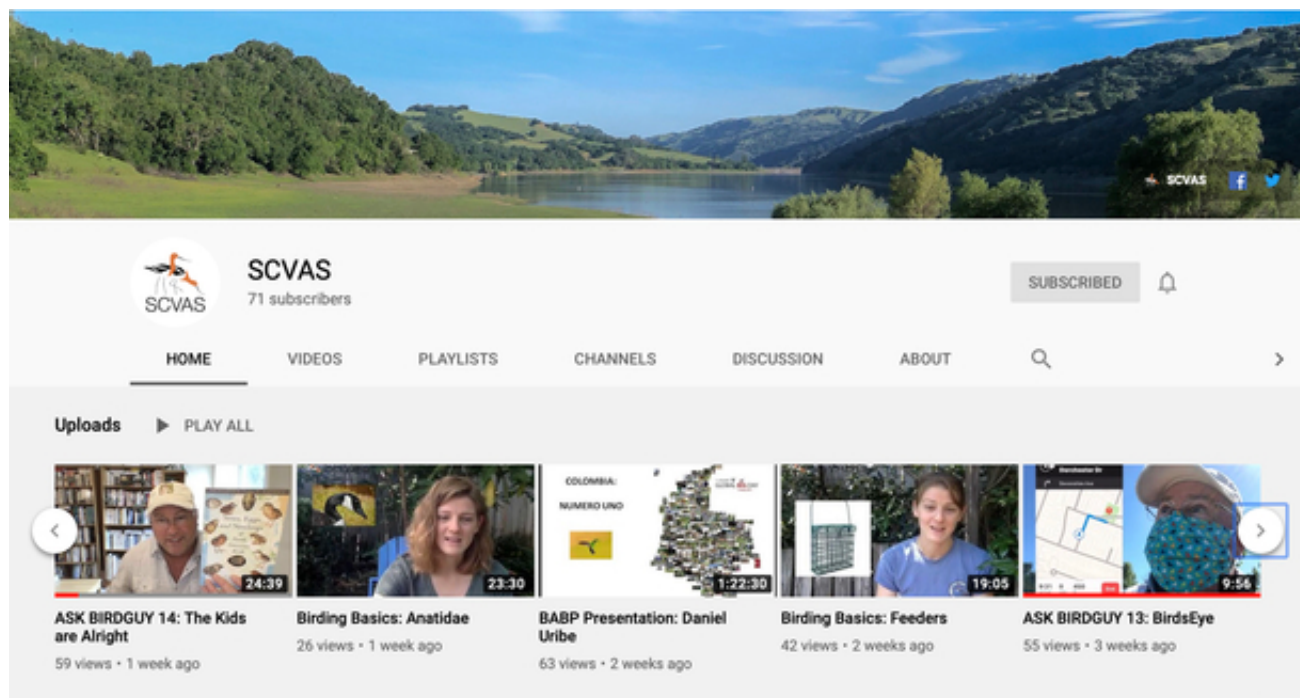
7:30 PM via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87175386623?pwd=Q01mN0xKZ2NHSzh1K0tkM1BnQTI2QT09>

Password: 069161

VIDEOS:

SCVAS has been busy creating video content to make sheltering-in-place a little more tolerable. We have dozens of videos you might enjoy such as **Ask BirdGuy, Birding Basics, Virtual Birding Trips, Bay Area Bird Photographers, Native Plants** and more! We strive to produce new content every week, so check the collection out regularly. Have a suggestion for a topic? Great! Send it to Matthew: director@scvas.org or Carolyn: programs@scvas.org



[YouTube Channel](#)

[SCVAS Videos Page](#)

FIELD TRIPS:

Unsurprisingly, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our field trip schedule has been suspended until further notice. We hope to resume trips at some point this summer, perhaps August if conditions permit. The previously scheduled excursion to Yuba Pass has been canceled. The boat trip to the Farallon Islands with Alvaro Jaramillo and Matthew Dodder, as well as the Snowy Plover field seminar with Ben Pearl may occur in August if health officials believe it is safe. Please check our [Field Trip page](#) for updates.

BIRDING LOCATIONS (to visit during the Pandemic):

Our trip leaders miss you! While we are eagerly awaiting to resume trips, we will provide monthly birding location recommendations. Special attention has been given to sites that are usually uncrowded and make social distancing possible. The links below will take you to our site where details can be found.

Urban Park: [Los Capitancillos Ponds](#)

East Hills: [Joseph D. Grant Park](#)

The Bay: [Don Edwards Environmental Education Center](#)



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.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS:

As SCVAS works to promote and protect birds and their habitat in Santa Clara Valley and beyond, we occasionally pause to look at our successes. We are proud of our work in Mountain View to protect the Egret and Heron rookery on Shorebird Way, and advocate for restrictions for boating near the Black Skimmer island. We are also happy with the recent removal of spikes to allow Cliff Swallows to return to the Coast Casey pump house. In Palo Alto, we were able to save some of the reeds of the Emily Renzel Marsh. The reeds now provide shelter and nesting sites for green herons, common gallinules, marsh wrens and common yellowthroat. Our work for the protection of Coyote Valley is progressing, and Bird Safe Design is becoming widespread in our cities.

But our work is never done. We have recently commented on Mid Peninsula Open Space District wildfire plans and asked Midpen to be less aggressive in their planned removal of all Eucalyptus trees, and to protect nesting areas of Red-shouldered Hawks and neotropical migrants such as the Olive-sided Flycatcher. And in San Jose we are opposed to the expansion of light pollution in the form of electronic billboards and on Highways 237 and 87. If you'd like to join us and support our advocacy program, please contact advocate@scvas.org.



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