



## Welcome to Our New Executive Director!

Please join the SCVAS board and staff in welcoming Matthew Dodder as our chapter's new Executive Director. Many of you already know Matthew as a top-notch birder, highly-regarded teacher of adult birding classes, and former SCVAS board member. Along with his lifelong love of birds, he brings to SCVAS decades of experience in graphic design and marketing.



Matthew often describes himself as an "Avian Evangelist." That passion is a perfect match to SCVAS's core mission - "Inspiring people of all ages to care about birds." Please plan to meet Matthew for yourself by attending the Annual SCVAS Member Dinner on Saturday, July 13th. Tickets are available [here](#). We hope to see you there!

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## Looking for a New Editor

Due to recent staffing changes, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is currently looking for a new editor for *The Avocet*. Familiarity with Photoshop and InDesign recommended but not required. Please contact Carolyn Knight at [programs@scvas.org](mailto:programs@scvas.org) if interested.

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## A Goodbye to our Transitional Director

## Annual Dinner

Join SCVAS in celebrating our wonderful members and volunteers at Shoup Park on Saturday, July 13. Dinner includes live music, a talk by Nathan Pieplow, and a silent auction.

\$25 per person



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## Conservation Corner

It has been a busy time for Advocacy these past few months! Check out what our Environmental Advocate, Shani Kleinhaus has been up to in your neighborhood:

[Read More Here](#)

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## Birdathon Wrap-up

2019 saw a fantastic effort by the participants of Birdathon, raising more than \$39,000 in support of SCVAS's education

Hey Birders,

After almost three years as part of the SCVAS team, it is time for me to say goodbye. It is incredible to think about the experiences this organization brought me in such a short amount of time, and I am grateful to all of you for that. Beyond birding basics, you have taught me so much about what it means to be dedicated to a life of environmental stewardship. Thank you for taking the time to share your passion for birds and the environment with me.



I congratulate Matthew Dodder on accepting the Executive Director position and am excited to see the new direction for SCVAS! Thanks again to everyone for your support. I'll see you out on the trail.

As always, happy birding!

Kelly Alfrey

Save the date for: **Wildlife & Harvest Day 2019!**

**Saturday, October 19, 2019 from 10AM-3PM**  
**@ Blackberry Farm in Cupertino**

If you are between the ages of 5-18, we would love your help creating a logo for our biggest event of the year! The winning entry will be used in publicity for Wildlife & Harvest Day. The first place winner will also receive an event T-shirt featuring their artwork!  
**Deadline for Submissions:**  
**Tuesday,**  
**September 3rd**  
For contest submission form, go to: [scvas.org/WildlifeDay](http://scvas.org/WildlifeDay)

Last year's  
logo:



## Field Trips

**Wednesday, July 3, 12-1pm.**

### **Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant**

Explore weedy-edged, tule-lined brackish canals and a salt pond for egrets, herons, grebes, ducks, and terns. Good trip for beginners. Call ahead for loaner binoculars. 1 mile, flat trail.

**Meet:** Bay Trail parking on Carl Rd.

**Allen Royer, (408) 288-7768.**

*Family friendly, ages 10+*

[RSVP HERE](#)

**Wednesday, July 10, 8:15-10am.**

### **Almaden Lake Park and Los Alamitos Creek Trail**

Explore this riparian habitat for Warbling Vireos, Western Tanagers, and Black-headed Grosbeaks. 2 miles, paved bike path.

programs. Check out more about our adventurous teams.

[Read More Here](#)

## Field Notes

Check in on April and May's sightings throughout the county.

[Read More Here](#)

## County Challenges

Have you completed your county list? Pete Dunten has penned a few challenges for every season for our intrepid birders.

[Read More Here](#)

## A New Volunteer Opportunity

SCVAS is proud to partner with our local VA hospitals to reach out and share the joys of birding and nature with disabled veterans.

[Read More Here](#)

## Getting Started Birding in Santa Clara County

**Class Session: Thursday,**  
**July 11; 7-9PM**

**Field Session: Saturday, July**  
**13; 8-11AM**

Are you curious about identifying and observing birds in the Bay Area? Dig into your local environment with this introductory class and associated field trip. In our evening class we'll be covering birding basics - families of common birds, their habitats, how to tell them apart, and how

**Meet:** Winfield Blvd parking.  
**Eve Meier, (408) 569-9391.**  
*Wheelchair accessible*

[RSVP HERE](#)

**Saturday, July 13, 8-10:30am.**  
**Charleston Slough**

Visit this tidal estuary and nearby salt pond, marsh, and small lake for avocets, stilts, and other goodies. Good trip for beginners. 2 miles, flat trails.

**Meet:** Terminal Blvd at end of San Antonio Rd., Mountain View.  
**Nick Yatsko (408) 891-3187.**  
*Family friendly, ages 14+*

[RSVP HERE](#)

**Saturday, July 27, 9-11:30am.**  
**Palo Alto Baylands**

Explore salt marsh, mud flats, lagoon and duck pond. For beginning birders but all are encouraged to attend. Call ahead for loaner binoculars. 2 miles, flat trails.

**Meet:** Front of Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center  
**Allen Royer, (408) 288-7768**  
*Family friendly, ages 10+*

[RSVP HERE](#)

**Sunday, July 28, 9-10:30am.**  
**Santa Clara Valley Water District**

We'll bird the pond, if it is full, and the Guadalupe River in search of ducks, wading birds, and songbirds. 1 mile easy walking. Beginners welcome!

**Meet:** 5700 Almaden Expy. Park in headquarters visitor parking (north end of large lot).  
**Eve Meier, (408) 569-9391.**

[RSVP HERE](#)

**Saturday, Aug 3, 8:00-10:00am.**  
**Año Nuevo State Park**

Possible Bank Swallow, Marbled Murrelet, Black Swift, and early returning shorebirds. Bring a scope, lunch, water, and dress in layers. 4 miles, half in sand.

**Meet:** Far (south) end of parking lot. \$10 parking fee.  
**Norm Kikuchi, (831) 251-0666.**  
*Family friendly, ages 10+*

[RSVP HERE](#)

**Saturday, Aug 3, 8:30am-12:30pm.**  
**Water Bird Photo Outing: Shoreline Park & Palo Alto Baylands**

Enjoy using your camera as a tool for observing birds! We will spend time at several spots near the water, photograph the birds that we see, and share camera tips. You'll observe bird behavior and learn to identify some of the common birds found at the bay. Have fun taking pictures of birds together with others who share your enthusiasm. Naturalists and photographers of all levels are welcome. Bring binoculars and a camera with a zoom lens. Contact the organizers if you have questions about camera equipment. Easy 1-2 mile walk on flat paved or packed trails.

**Meet:** End of Terminal Blvd.  
**Mary Ann Robertson & Julie Amato,**

to use binoculars. You'll learn where to find birds in different seasons and tides, and then practice what we learned in a weekend field trip.



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## Nature Journaling w/ John Muir Laws

Friday, July 12 & August 16  
12:00PM

McClellan Ranch Preserve

Free workshop for all ages!  
Enhance your enjoyment of  
nature by learning how to  
sketch and record what you see  
on your walks.

*No RSVP required, please  
arrive promptly.*

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marobertsonbird@gmail.com

*Family Friendly, ages 14+*

[RSVP HERE](#)

**Wednesday, Aug 7, 12-1pm.**

**Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant**

Explore weedy-edged, tule-lined brackish canals and a salt pond for egrets, herons, grebes, ducks, and terns. Good trip for beginners. Call ahead for loaner binoculars. 1 mile, flat trail.

**Meet:** Bay Trail parking on Carl Rd.

**Allen Royer, 408-288-7768.**

*Family friendly, ages 10+*

[RSVP HERE](#)

**Saturday, Aug 10, 9-11am.**

**Beginners: McClellan Ranch**

Learn your backyard birds and more while we start at the McClellan Ranch bird feeders then stroll along the Stevens Creek trail. Binoculars available. 1.5 miles, flat paved path.

**Meet:** SCVAS Nature Shop.

**Robin Chen, (908) 433-7558.**

*Family friendly, ages 10+*

[RSVP HERE](#)

**Sunday, Aug 11, 9-11:30am.**

**Palo Alto Baylands**

Explore salt marsh, mud flats, lagoon and duck pond. For beginning birders but all are encouraged to attend. Call ahead for loaner binoculars. 2 miles, flat trails.

**Meet:** Front of Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center

**Allen Royer, (408) 288-7768**

*Family friendly, ages 10+*

[RSVP HERE](#)

**Wednesday, Aug 14, 8am - 12pm.**

**Eden Landing Ecological Reserve**

**\*Joint Event: SFBBO and SCVAS\***

Look for banded Snowy Plovers with Ben Pearl to see if we can spot any locally fledged chicks. We will also look for Least Terns and other migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. 3 miles, level ground.

**Meet:** Parking lot at 26348 Eden Landing Rd., Hayward (south end of Eden Landing Road).

**SFBBO Program Director Ben Pearl and SCVAS Education Specialist Carolyn Knight, (408) 252-3740**

[RSVP HERE](#)

**Saturday, Aug 17, 8-10:30am.**

**Charleston Slough**

Visit this tidal estuary and nearby salt pond, marsh, and small lake for avocets, stilts, and other goodies. Good trip for beginners. 2 miles, flat trails.

**Meet:** Terminal Blvd at end of San Antonio Rd., Mountain View.

**Nick Yatsko (408) 891-3187.**

*Family friendly, ages 14+*

[RSVP HERE](#)



**Sunday, Aug 18, 8:00-11:30am.**

**Sanborn County Park (main entrance)**

Explore redwoods, oak-madrone forest, and riparian habitat for woodpeckers, creepers, and flycatchers. 3 miles, somewhat strenuous.

**Meet:** First large parking lot on your right after entry kiosk, credit card only vehicle entry fee.

**Dave Zittin, (408) 515-7104.**

[RSVP HERE](#)

**Sunday, Aug 25, 4-6pm.**

**Drop-in: Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve**

**\*Joint Event: OSA and SCVAS\***

Drop in anytime during the event. SCVAS and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority docents will be in the parking lot with a scope and extra binoculars to help you spot Golden Eagles, Bullock's Orioles, Northern Harriers, Western Kingbirds, and many others. This event is not a walk and is open to all levels of birding, including families and beginners.

**Meet:** preserve parking lot.

**Chuq Von Rospach, (408) 221-0797.**

*Family friendly, ages 10+. Wheelchair accessible*

[RSVP HERE](#)

**Saturday, Aug 31, 8-10:30am.**

**Ulistac Natural Area**

Ulistac, an urban open space with oak and riparian woodlands and seasonal wetland, contains the last 40 acres of natural, undeveloped land in Santa Clara along the Guadalupe River.

Habitat restoration is ongoing with the removal of invasive species and the addition of California native plants. 2 miles, flat dirt trails and paved ramps up to the levee.

**Meet:** south park entrance. Nearest facilities across street at Lick Mill Park.

**Steve Tracey (408) 966-3860**

[RSVP HERE](#)

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