



# Educational Programs and Presentations Available for Schools:



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The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS) has several different types of presentations and programs that are appropriate for a classroom or classrooms; all can be adapted to different age levels. Please read the description of the available programs prior to contacting SCVAS. *Scheduling instructions are provided at the end of this information.*

**1) Slideshows:** There are three different slideshows that can be made available. You have the option of either borrowing them yourself (with our written script) or having an SCVAS representative come and present them.



**Grade Level** – Each presentation can be adapted to a range of grade levels. Please consult the Programs Coordinator (see contact information at end of this list) for your grade of interest.

- “*Wonders of Wetlands*” - describes the different types of wetlands, the history of Bay Area wetlands, and the plants and animals found there, including 15 of the most common birds seen at the Bay Area wetlands;
- “*Backyard and Garden Birds*” - focuses on backyard and schoolyard birds. Includes a student journal, which students complete while watching the slideshow;
- “*Wetland Birds*” - Presents over 35 different species of birds found in the wetlands. Focuses on behavioral and biological characteristics.

**Location** – Presentation should take place in a classroom at the school (can schedule several classrooms sequentially on the same day) which has a screen, windows that can be darkened, and a table/desk available for the projector (as needed)

**Timing** - each slideshow is about 40 minutes long.

**Scheduling** - Dependent on volunteer and/or staff availability. We ask for at least 3 weeks advance notice to give us a chance to find someone, and we will have to cancel if we are not able to find a presenter in time.

**Max Participants** - up to TWO full classrooms (though fewer are preferred) at a time; multiple programs can be scheduled sequentially on the same date.

**Time of Year** - This program can be scheduled at any time of year, subject to SCVAS availability.

**Cost** - Free

**Additional Details** – Each slideshow presentation is available either as a downloadable presentation, an old-fashioned slideshow, or a Powerpoint presentation (for “*Wonders*” and “*Backyard*” slideshows).

**2) Bird Skins and Nests:** An SCVAS representative will come to your classroom and bring our museum study skins, feathers, and preserved nests.

**Details** – This presentation allows the students to see some of our local birds much more closely than they normally would.

The focus is on differences between different types of birds, how they use and are adapted to different habitats and environments, and how to predict a bird’s behavior by looking at its physical characteristics.



**Grade Level** – Can be adapted to any grade level. Younger grades will focus on the characteristics that make birds unique and the habitats they live in; older grades will additionally focus on individual adaptations,

identification, calls, mate selection, and species conservation (where appropriate).

**Location** – Presentation should take place in a classroom at the school (can schedule several classrooms sequentially on the same day).

**Timing** - about 45 minutes long.

**Scheduling** - Dependent on volunteer and/or staff availability. We ask for at least 2 weeks advance notice to confirm an available educational presenter.

**Max Participants** - 45 students (though fewer are preferred); multiple programs can be scheduled sequentially on the same date.

**Time of Year** - This program can be scheduled at any time of year, subject to SCVAS availability.

**Cost** – Free



# Educational Programs and Presentations (Cont.)



**3) On-Site Bird and Nature Walks:** An SCVAS field trip leader will come to your school with binoculars for the students to use, give a brief intro about the birds, etc., then lead the students on a short walk around the school grounds. *Please note:* binoculars are used only with children aged 7 and up; younger children will be guided to use their 5 senses during their walk, but no equipment.

**Grade Level** - Can be adapted to any grade level. Younger grades will focus on a “Sensory Experience” and learning to look, listen, feel, and smell, with some emphasis on learning to see that nature is all around them. Older grades will focus on habitat use, bird ID, and noticing the differences between different species and their adaptations.

**Location** - This activity should begin in an open outdoor area at the school (i.e. baseball field, etc.), and should have an area around the school grounds where students can walk without disrupting other school activities.

**Timing** - Flexible, but should be between 30-60 minutes, depending on the school’s schedule and the students’ ages. If possible, a MORNING time is recommended for this activity.



**Scheduling** - Because this program involves leading students on a walk, we would need to schedule this with at least two SCVAS field trip leaders (or more, depending on the number of students). As a result, we require a longer lead time in order to confirm sufficient available leaders, and ask for at least 3-4 weeks.

**Max Participants** - Up to one classroom at a time; however, multiple bird walks (i.e. for more than one classroom) can be scheduled sequentially on the same date.

**Time of Year** - The best times of year for Bird and Nature Walks are Sept-Nov and Mar-May. Those also happen to be the busiest months for SCVAS, though, and the schedule fills very quickly. Schools and groups are welcome to schedule a walk for any time of year, with the understanding, however, that this program will be cancelled in the event of rain or extreme heat.

**Cost** - Free

**Additional Information** - It is extremely helpful to have additional adults (i.e. teachers, teacher aides, parents, etc.) to help with keeping the students’ attention focused on the leader and the topic at hand.

## 4) Off-Site Bird and Nature Walks:

An SCVAS field trip leader will meet students at a local park/open space area, give a brief intro about the birds, where students will be walking, etc., then lead the students on a short walk. If students are aged 7 and up, binoculars will be provided for all participants.

**Grade Level** - Can be adapted to any grade level. Younger grades will focus on a “Sensory Experience” and learning to look, listen, feel, and smell, with some emphasis on learning to see that nature is all around them. Older grades will focus on habitat use, bird ID, and noticing the differences between different species and their adaptations. If your class has particular topics they would like focused on, please ask when scheduling.

**Location** - These can take place at a local open space or park of your choice. If time and transportation allow, we often go to the Baylands in Mountain View. **NOTE: Transportation to-or-from the walk location is the responsibility of the individual school/classroom(s).**

**Timing** - Depending on the location, the minimum time for this activity is 1 hour. The walk in Mountain View usually lasts approximately 1.5 hours. If possible, a MORNING time is



recommended for this activity.

**Scheduling** - Please see information as above.

**Max Participants** - Depending on location, up to TWO classes at a time (*please note, however that some locations will be limited to only one class at a time*). Multiple bird walks for multiple classes can be scheduled for sequential dates as needed.

**Time of Year** - The best times of year for Bird and Nature Walks are Sept-Nov and Mar-May. Those also happen to be the busiest months for SCVAS, though, and the schedule fills very quickly. Schools and groups are welcome to schedule a walk for any time of year, with the understanding, however, that this program will be cancelled in the event of rain or extreme heat.

**Cost** - Free

**Additional Information** - This activity *requires* additional adult volunteers/participants provided by the school/classroom (i.e. teachers, teacher aides, parents, etc.) to help with keeping the groups together and the students’ attention appropriately focused. The general rule is 1 additional adult for every 8 children; more adults are requested for younger groups.



## Educational Programs and Presentations (Cont.)



**5) Nest Box Building:** With the assistance of SCVAS staff and/or volunteers, students use pre-cut kits to make nest boxes that they can put up in their school or back yards. The purpose of these nest boxes are to provide critically needed nesting locations for species of cavity-nesting birds experiencing population declines due to habitat loss.

**Details** – This program begins with an introduction to species-specific habitat use, adaptations, and the birds of particular interest to this program. We also discuss the roles that individual people can play in helping to protect and conserve threatened species. We then help the students build the nest boxes with cordless drills and glue.



**Grade Level** – This program can be adapted to all levels, from grades 1-8. Younger grades will receive a general introduction about birds and why they build nests; older grades will delve more deeply into the concepts of habitat loss, conservation, and adaptations.

**Location** – This is a project that can be done in a classroom or multi-purpose room at the school. **NOTE:** Some noise is

**6) Build-a-Bird-Feeder:** SCVAS staff and/or volunteers come into the classroom and help students make their own bird feeders. Teachers can select from three different feeder types, subject to materials availability: Pinecones and Peanut Butter; Recycled Water Bottle Seed Feeders; Egg Crates/Tray Feeders; Hummingbird Feeders. Teachers can pick two of the four types for their classroom.



**Details** – Students will learn about what birds eat and why, and how to create easy home-made feeders that will attract songbirds.

**Grade Level** – Primarily designed for younger students in grades pre-K through 3rd.

**Location** – This activity can take place in any classroom or multi-purpose room, depending on the number of students (i.e. you will want room for the students to move around and get supplies, as well as room for the leaders to demonstrate each step in the assembly process). **NOTE:** There will be some mess generated from the Peanut Butter and/or Bird Seed used.

**Timing** – Regardless of which feeders are selected, the leaders will start the activity with a 10-15 minute introduction about

generated from the drill drivers, and some mess from the glue.

**Timing** – this activity needs at least an hour and a half, minimum – time to introduce the activity, and time to do the actual building (and maybe some decorating as well).

**Scheduling** – Because of the prep work required to make the nest box kits, we need at least 6 weeks lead time to schedule this (i.e. we have to have time to cut and pre-drill all of the needed kits). Can be scheduled for any day – morning or afternoon – subject to SCVAS availability.

**Max Participants** – Up to one classroom at a time; multiple classrooms may be scheduled sequentially on the same date.

**Time of Year** – This program can be scheduled at any time of year, subject to SCVAS availability.

**Cost** – This is the one of the few programs that has a fee associated with it, to cover the cost of materials and supplies. The fee is **\$9/kit** – we generally recommend making 1 kit per 2-3 students unless there is a strong desire to have 1 kit per 1 student (i.e. they are being brought home rather than put up at school).

**Additional Information** – This activity **requires** additional adult volunteers/participants provided by the school/classroom (i.e. teachers, teacher aides, parents, etc.) to help put the actual kits together. We generally recommend that there be a minimum of 1 adult per every 4 children; more for younger children.

bird beaks and what birds eat. The remainder of the timing is dependent on how many and which feeders are selected: the Pine Cone and Peanut Butter feeder requires a minimum of 30 minutes; the Recycled Water Bottle feeders require 15 minutes; the Egg Crate feeders require about 15 minutes.

**Scheduling** – Dependent on volunteer/staff availability. We ask for at least 2 weeks advance notice to give us a chance to find someone, and we will have to cancel if we are not able to find a presenter in time. However, if the Recycled Water Bottle feeders are selected, we ask for a minimum of 4 weeks to gather sufficient supplies.

**Max Participants** – Up to one classroom; multiple classrooms may be scheduled sequentially on the same date.

**Time of Year** – This program can be scheduled at any time of year, subject to SCVAS availability. Since our Fall and Spring schedules fill up so quickly with field trips, this activity is strongly suggested for SCVAS' quieter times, such as winter and summer.

**Cost** – There is a \$30/classroom fee for this activity to cover the cost of supplies.

**Additional Information** – It is helpful to have a few additional adult volunteers, if possible, for this activity to help the students follow assembly instructions.



## Educational Programs and Presentations (Cont.)



**7) Wetlands Discovery Program:** As the flagship educational program for SCVAS, the Wetlands Discovery Program (WDP) is designed to teach students the value of and threats to local wetlands. SCVAS volunteers introduce students to wetland habitats, wildlife, and ecology through engaging classroom activities and then guide them in exploring nature and applying their new knowledge during a 2-hour birdwatching field trip at local baylands.

**Grade Level** – The components of this program are designed to meet many of the California State Science Standards for grades 3 through 6, featuring topics such as adaptations and energy cycles.

**Number of Classrooms (required)** – This program is designed to work with **2-4 classes** and should not be scheduled for individual classrooms. Individual classrooms can request any of the other programs (#1-6) listed above.

**Location** – The Wetlands Discovery Program consists of several components. The in-class component takes place in a cafeteria or other multi-purpose room (NOT an individual classroom); the field-trip component takes place at Charleston Slough in Mountain View, near Shoreline Park.

**Timing** - Each component has a different timing requirements.

Please go to <http://www.scvas.org/pdf/WDPIntro.pdf> for more information.

**Scheduling** - Because of the coordination involved with this program and the number of volunteers required, SCVAS requires a minimum of 2 months advance notice.

**Time of Year** - This program takes place during the Fall (Oct-Nov) and the Spring (March-May) only. To see a calendar of available dates, go to <http://www.scvas.org/pdf/WetlandsSchoolCalendar.pdf>.

**Cost** - There is no SCVAS cost to participate in this program, but schools may be required to pay for bus transportation to the field trip location in Mountain View. Some financial assistance may be available - there are four main components overall to the Wetlands program, and we do require participation in all four to be eligible for financial assistance. See details on web links given above. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Schools that have participated in the Wetlands program in the past have first priority for available dates and bus funding.

**Additional Information** - This activity *requires* additional adult volunteers/participants provided by the school/classroom (i.e. teachers, teacher aides, parents, etc.) to help with keeping the groups together and the students' attention appropriately focused. The general rule is 1 additional adult for every 8 children; more are welcome too.

### **8) Peregrine Falcon Assemblies (TBC):**

SCVAS has partnered with the Predatory Bird Research Group in Santa Cruz to arrange school assemblies with a live Peregrine Falcon. This is a multi-classroom assembly. This is a great opportunity for your students to learn about Falcons and their amazing recovery from population decline -- a recovery made possible by a team of dedicated scientists. The story of these conservation biologists' efforts to help recover a near extinct peregrine falcon population in California. This success story shows the lab's scientists raising and releasing baby falcons. Introduces a falcon camera on a San Francisco, San Jose, and/or Redwood City nest sites and how to view it online. This presentation provides a picture of what wildlife biologists do, promotes the benefits of attending college, and demonstrates that a few people working hard can make a big difference in the world. The speaker, Glenn Stewart, is an instructor at UCSC, a conservation biologist with the PBRG, and a long-time falconer. As a special treat, Glenn will bring Sophie, his tame Peregrine Falcon who has entertained students for many years, as a part of the assembly.

**Program Type:** This presentation is an assembly-style program for as many students as can fit in one space



**Program Timing:** 45-minute presentation (25-minute slideshow, Q&A).

**Program Cost:** Free presentation, funding provided by PG&E and Oracle

**Program Schedule:** Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings are best - generally around 10 or 10:30AM; can also do 1PM if necessary (though not preferred). *Subject to change.*

### **Additional Information**

**Suggested Age-range:** This program is offered for all students grades 3 and up, though may be more appropriate for students in grades 5-8.

**Minimum number of participants:** These assemblies are designed for multiple classrooms, and require a minimum of 3 classrooms.

**Maximum number of participants:** As many as can safely fit into a single space (cafeteria, gym, etc)

**NEEDS FROM SCHOOL:** projection screen and room that can be darkened for slideshow (very dark).



## Educational Programs and Presentations (Cont.)



# SCHEDULING a Classroom Program with SCVAS

Because all of the above programs require time to coordinate with available presenters, teachers are encouraged to contact SCVAS as soon as possible with what type of program you might be interested in, and some available dates you would like to schedule them. As mentioned, October, April and May are our busiest months, and we have a lot of programs already scheduled; if you wish to schedule a program during these months, Mondays or Wednesdays are your best bet for finding dates that we still have available.

**To schedule a program, call 408-252-3740 or email [programs@scvas.org](mailto:programs@scvas.org).**

Please make sure to include the following information in any correspondence:

- Your Name
- The School's Name
- The Grade(s) interested in participating
- Number of classrooms interested in participating
- The Program(s) you are interested in scheduling
- 3 or 4 available dates for scheduling