



THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

March-April 2011

Audubons, Attorney General And Wind Companies Agree To Make Things Better For Raptors

By Shani Kleinhaus, Environmental Advocate

In cooperation with the California Attorney General's Office, five Bay Area Audubon Society chapters and Californians for Renewable Energy (CaRE) have reached an agreement with wind energy operators owned by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, to expedite the replacement of old wind turbines in the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area with new, larger wind turbines that are less likely to harm birds.

Santa Clara Valley Audubon, Golden Gate Audubon, Mt. Diablo Audubon, Ohlone Audubon, and Marin Audubon joined the Attorney General's Office in negotiating an agreement that addresses the state's need for renewable wind energy and the state's obligation to protect resident and migratory birds.

"Our agreement sets an aggressive schedule for removing the old-generation turbines and replacing them with new-generation turbines that should substantially reduce impacts to birds," said Michael Lyles, Conservation Director with the Golden Gate Audubon Society. "According to experts studying the Altamont Pass, the removal of the old turbines and replacement with properly-sited turbines may reduce impacts to birds by as much as 80%." For much of the last decade, the Bay Area Audubon chapters and the operating wind companies have struggled to agree on ways to reduce impacts to birds, bats and other wildlife while fostering the environmental and economic benefits of wind energy generation in the Altamont Pass.

The new agreement reflects the consensus of the Alameda County Scientific Review Committee that the only way to significantly reduce impacts to birds and keep wind energy generation in Altamont Pass is to remove the old-generation wind turbines and replace them with better sited, new-generation models. Not to be lost in the move to new generation turbines is that regardless of whether the

**The Spring
Birdathon Starts
March 26th - Sign-
up For Your Favorite
Team(s) Today!**

-Pages 8 & 9
(or go to www.scvas.org/birdathon)

NextEra Energy Resources companies replace all of their turbines on this expedited schedule, they have committed to ceasing all operations of their old turbines by the end of 2015, three years before they are required to do so under their current permits.

"This agreement addresses the problem arising throughout the state: balancing the need for renewable energy generation with subsequent impacts to wildlife," said Bob Power, Executive Director of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. "We appreciate NextEra leading the way in the Altamont Pass to remove the old turbines and properly install
(continued on back page)

General Membership Meetings

NEW LOCATION in 2011

Cubberley Community Center, Rm H1

Palo Alto - Middlefield & Montrose Rds

(go to www.scvas.org for a map & detailed directions)

Doors open 7:30; program 8:00



Wednesday, March 16th

**"African Wildlife
Action - Updated"
with Doug Cheeseman**

Join us for another energetic program on the behavior of African birds and mammals, from Tanzania, Kenya, and Ethiopia. This program will be fast-paced (but fun!) and focused on wildlife behavior including mating and feeding strategies, competition and breeding success, and cooperation in raising young. Bird families will of course be emphasized.

Above Left: Secretary Bird
© Doug Cheeseman

Wednesday, April 20th

**"Finding Connection
in Nature"
with John (Jack) Muir
Laws**

John Muir said "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe". In this illustrated lecture, John (Jack) Muir Laws (no relation...) will help us follow a series of astounding relationships between plants and animals in the Sierra Nevada. You will be delighted and amazed by the subtle and essential threads that connect species.

- ❖ *Evening Grosbeaks Break Records!*
— Field Notes, Page 6
- ❖ *Christmas Bird Count Results & Summaries*
— Beginning on Page 10
- ❖ *Young Audubon's "Amazing Bird Chase"*
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- ❖ *9th Annual "Going Native Tour" with CNPS*
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Mar - Apr '11 Field Trips

(Full details for all of our Field Trips are also available online at www.scvas.org)

Please carpool if possible; bring binoculars, field guides, layered clothing.

LO = Lunch optional; RC = Heavy rain cancels; NF = No facilities available

Wednesday Mar. 2, 12:00 PM

City of Sunnyvale Landfill

One hour. Leaders: Freddy Howell, Allen Royer and/or Elaine Gould. Contact organizer Silviana Ruiz (408) 730-7545 to attend. Donald M. Somers Water Pollution Control Plant, junction of Borregas and Caribbean. Meet at Trailhead at north end. Birding geared toward beginners. Bring binoculars; loaners also available. **RC**

Saturday Mar. 5, 8:00 AM

Windy Hill OSP

Half day. Leader: Kirsten Holmquist (408) 747-0988. Meet in the parking lot at Sausal Pond edge of the preserve. From I-280 in Portola Valley take Alpine Rd. south (toward hills) about 2.9 miles to the first stop sign, turn right on Portola Rd. and go 0.8 miles to the parking lot on the left side of the road just past The Sequoias. **RC**

Sunday Mar. 6, 9:00 AM

Stanford Campus

Half day. Leader: Dick Stovel (650) 856-6105. From Hwy 101 in Palo Alto take University Ave. exit west through downtown and into Stanford campus (University Ave. becomes Palm Dr.). Meet at the end of Palm Dr. at entrance to Main Quad. Local breeding birds and early returning migrants should be active. This field trip is highly recommended for beginning birders. **RC**

Wednesday Mar. 9, 9:00 AM

Coyote Lake County Park, Gilroy

Half day. Leader: Jean Myers. (408) 846-4655. From Hwy 101 in Gilroy, take Leavesley Rd. east for 1.8 miles. Turn left on New Ave. for 0.6 miles, then right on Roop Rd. Turn left at the T-intersection to stay on Roop Rd. (total of 3.2 miles on Roop Rd.). Turn left onto Coyote Lake Rd. Park in the new paved parking lot in the 1st campground, next to the new bathroom facility. (Not yet shown on the online map of the park; before the Lakeview Campground). Late arrivals may meet group at lake overlook in the NE corner of the Lakeview Campground (about a 10 min walk). Some walking on flat terrain; stop & go car birding along the reservoir. Possible entry fee. Possible wood ducks,

eagles, rock wren and riparian/woodland species. **LO, RC**

Saturday Mar. 12, 8:00 AM

Uvas Creek Park Preserve

Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. From Hwy 101 in Gilroy go west on Tenth St. about a mile where it turns right and becomes Uvas Pkwy. Turn left at Miller Ave., drive over Uvas Creek and turn left into Christmas Hill Park and park in the first isle to the right. Trip is a fairly easy but long walk. Note: Low water conditions in the creek may require an alternate birding destination in the Gilroy area. **LO, RC**

Sunday Mar. 13, 8:00 AM

Almaden Lake Park and Alamos Creek

Half day. Leader: Steve Tracey (408) 966-3860. Meet in the west parking lot of Almaden Lake Park. From Hwy 85 take Almaden Expwy south. The park is on the east (left) side of Almaden Expwy. Continue past the park to Coleman Rd. and return northbound on Almaden Expwy to the park entrance on the right. Expect about 3 miles of easy walking. We will bird the lake and the trail upstream looking for waterfowl, raptors, and a wide variety of riparian birds. **Spring forward**, or be an hour late for this trip. **LO, RC**

Friday-Sunday Mar. 18-20

Honey Lake, Eagle Lake & vicinity

Leader: Bob Hirt (408) 821-2732. A week-end trip to a remote corner of northeast California to see Sage Grouse on their booming grounds. Other expected species include eagles, hawks, geese, ducks, cranes, woodpeckers and other mountain specialties such as Townsend's Solitaire, Cassin's Finch, Mountain Bluebird, and Pinyon Jay. Trip limited to 20 participants, please call leader for further details and to reserve a space.

Saturday Mar. 19, 8:30 AM

Volunteer Hike at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford University

Half Day. We'll meet at 8:15 AM to caravan to the gate. If you've ever volunteered for SCVAS, please join us for this special hike (which is free for volunteers)! **RSVP is required** and space is limited – please call

408-252-3740 to reserve a spot. Driving directions will be sent upon sign-up.

Saturday Mar. 26, 8:00 AM

Stevens Creek County Park

Half day. Leader: Pat Kenny (408) 725-0468. From I-280 in Cupertino take Foothill Expwy exit south 2.1 miles (it becomes Stevens Canyon Rd.) turn left into first park entrance and meet in first, Chestnut Picnic Area parking lot. A top riparian birding spot in the South Bay for migrants and local breeding birds. Entrance fee required. **LO, RC**

Sunday Mar. 27, 8:00 AM

Ogier Ponds

Half day. Leader: Kirsten Holmquist (408) 747-0988. From Hwy 101 in Morgan Hill take Cochrane Rd. west to Monterey Hwy, turn right, go north 2.6 miles, turn right towards the Model Airplane Park (street is unnamed). Follow the road for 1/4 mile and park in the gravel lot at the first bend in road (meet at the gate if the entrance is locked). **RC**

Saturday Apr. 2, 7:30 AM

Gilroy Hot Springs Rd

Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. Parking space is limited in some places on this trip so we will meet at 7:30 AM behind McDonalds (near Kenneth Cole) on the right side of Leavesley Rd (corner of Arroyo Circle) and will carpool from there. FRS radios tuned to channel 11 will be especially useful during the driving portion of this trip. Highlights: migrating and breeding birds of southern Santa Clara County. **RC**

Sunday Apr. 3, 8:00 AM

Grant Ranch County Park

Half day. Leader: Rich Page (408) 377-1092. From I-680 take Alum Rock Ave. northeast, turn right on Mt. Hamilton Rd. and go approximately 9 miles to the park. Meet at Grant Lake (aka Hall's Valley Lake) parking lot, which is the first parking lot on the left side of the road (do not enter the Main Park Entrance on the right). Fresh water ducks, oak woodland birds and a possible Golden Eagle. A Park entrance fee will be required for the last half of the trip. Trip involves a moderately strenuous 2-mile walk. **LO, RC**

Wednesday Apr. 6, 12:00 PM

City of Sunnyvale Landfill

One hour. Leaders: Freddy Howell, Al-

Field Trips *continued*

len Royer and/or Elaine Gould. Contact organizer Silviana Ruiz (408) 730-7545 to attend. See details from Mar. 2nd.

Saturday Apr. 9, 8:00 AM Alum Rock Park

Half day. Leader: Al Eisner (650) 364-3686 evenings, (650) 926-2018 days and voice-mail. From Hwy 101 or I-680 take McKee Rd. northeast toward the hills then left on Toyon Ave. then right on Penitencia Creek Rd and continue on into the park. Meet in the "Rustic Lands" parking area, on the right just before reaching the "T" intersection and underpass. Expect a moderately strenuous 3-4 mile walk, looking for resident breeding birds (possible Rufous-Crowned Sparrow), early migrants, and lingering winter birds. Also be prepared for some mud! Possible entrance fee. **LO, RC**

Sunday Apr. 10, 8:00 AM Charleston Slough

Half day. Leader: Roxie Handler (408) 730-1745. From Hwy. 101 in Mt. View take San Antonio Rd. north to Terminal Way parking area. Meet at the entrance nearest San Antonio Road. This trip is recommended for beginning birders but all are encouraged to attend. Bring your spotting scope and a friend.

Wednesday Apr. 13, 8:30 AM Stevens Creek County Park

Half day. Leader: Gail Cheeseman. (408) 741-5330. Possible entry fee. Riparian habitat; looking for mating behavior. See directions from March 26th listing. **LO, RC**

Saturday Apr. 16, 9:00 AM Hidden Villa

Half day. Leader: Garth Harwood (650) 949-8643. Bird the farm, gardens and wild land edges of this unique facility

with Hidden Villa's Environmental Education Director. From I-280 in Los Altos take El Monte Rd past Foothill College, turn left at Moody Rd then after approx. 1.7 miles left into Hidden Villa. Meet at the first parking lot beside the entrance. A \$5 per car parking fee is required. **LO, RC**

Sunday Apr. 17, 8:00 AM Ed Levin County Park (North)

Half day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. Take Hwy. 237 east, crossing I-880 and I-680 (237 becomes Calaveras Rd.), turn left on Downing Rd. to the park entrance. Meet in parking lot on the far, northeast side of Sandy Wool Lake (near the dog park). We will look for migrants and local breeding birds in Milpitas' prime birding hotspot. Be aware that the trail is steep in places. Entrance fee. **LO, RC**

Saturday Apr. 23, 8:00 AM Arastradero OSP

Half day. Leader: Kirsten Holmquist (408) 747-0988. From I-280 take Page Mill Rd west (toward the Santa Cruz mountains); turn right on Arastradero Rd and meet in the parking lot about a half-mile on the right. Trip involves moderately strenuous hiking. **RC**

Sunday Apr. 24, 8:00 A.M. Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford University

Half day. Leader: Sonny Mencher (650) 366-3571. Trip limited to sixteen people; call Sonny or e-mail him at photosbygrandpa@yahoo.com to reserve a space. There is a fee of \$5 per person for Jasper Ridge. Meet in the parking lot on the right side of Sand Hill Rd as you head West toward the Preserve (near the freeway at the intersection of Lawler Ranch Road and Sand Hill Rd.). At the parking lot people are expected to form their own carpool, as carpooling

is now required to minimize the number of cars on the Preserve. Caravan with a leader from the parking area between 7:50 AM and 8:00 AM only, the gate will then be open. (DO NOT LEAVE EARLIER, AS PARKING OUTSIDE THE GATE IS NOT ALLOWED, SINCE IT POSES AN UNACCEPTABLE TRAFFIC HAZARD!) From I-280, the main gate is on the left side of the road about 2 miles West (away from the freeway) on Sand Hill Rd. Trip involves 2-3 miles of moderately strenuous walking, and goes rain or shine.

Saturday Apr. 30, 8:30 AM Mines Rd., Del Puerto Canyon & vicinity

Full day. Leader: Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. We'll start this trip in Del Puerto Canyon, working our way west to San Antonio Valley. From I-580 go east over Altamont Pass, to I-5, south on I-5, west at the Patterson exit (Diablo Grande Pkwy) and then right on Del Puerto Canyon Rd. Meet at the first pullout. Hoped for highlights include possible Costa's Hummingbird, Phainopepla, Lewis's Woodpecker and Lawrence's Goldfinch. Bring a full tank of gas, lunch and liquids.

Sunday May 1, 8:00 AM Rancho Canada del Oro OSP

Half day. Leader: Janna Pauser (408) 569-9264 or jannana@pacbell.net. From Hwy 85 take Almaden Expwy southeast to Harry Rd; go right 1 block, then left on McKean. Take McKean 6+ miles, past Calero Reservoir, and turn right on Casa Loma Rd. Meet at parking lot at end of road, about 2 miles. Species possible include Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Wood-Pewee, Purple Finch, Cassin's Vireo, Lazuli Bunting, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, and Allen's Hummingbird. Bring water. **LO**

Don't forget - Spring is Nesting Season!



☞ When landscaping, be careful to watch out for nests, eggs, and fledglings - make sure you're not disturbing our breeding birds!

☞ It's not too late to get your nest boxes ready! Our local cavity nesters are already eagerly seeking out nesting sites and starting their broods. If you haven't already, check your nest boxes for old nests, debris, etc., and clean them up for this year. But make sure to not disturb active nests! If in doubt about a particular nest box, leave it until the end of the season.



Volunteer Ventures

by Toby Goldberg

Programs Coordinator

National Volunteer Week, held this year on **April 10th-16th**, began in 1974 and was established to recognize, celebrate and encourage volunteerism. As a non-profit organization, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is particularly appreciative of the many hours our volunteers have donated over the years to keep our programs active and vital. This year's theme is "Volunteers: Rays of Hope" and I can't think of a better way to describe what our volunteers bring into the community!

Of course, all of us here at SCVAS know that our volunteers are the best around, but it's gratifying to have other organizations recognize that too! This year, we are extremely pleased to announce that Elaine Gould and Gordon Barrett have been selected as outstanding volunteers by the Junior League of San Jose for their work with the Wetlands Discovery Program. They will be presented with the JLSJ's annual Crystal Bowl Award during a special luncheon on April 29th. Everyone is invited to attend this wonderful event—tickets are \$35, and include a gourmet, 3-course meal. If you'd like to come as part of the SCVAS contingent, please RSVP to me at 408-252-3740 by April 15th. Congratulations to Elaine and Gordon!

To all of our volunteers – THANK YOU! Please stop in the office to say "hi" and let us show our appreciation, or join us for one of the special activities we have planned in the coming months:

Bird and Wildflower Hike at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve – Saturday, March 19th; 8:30-11:30AM. Jasper Ridge, near Portola Valley, encompasses remarkable geologic, topographic, and biotic diversity within its 1,189 acres, and provides a natural laboratory, educational experiences, and refuge to native plants and animals. Because of its research and refuge status, however, it is generally closed to the public. We've been able to reserve a special time for our volunteers to experience this beautiful preserve, and we hope you'll join us! Space is limited, so please call 408-252-3740 to reserve a spot.

We will also host a special **Volunteer Appreciation Birdwalk and Gourmet Pizza Party at McClellan Ranch Park - Wednesday, April 13th**. We'll take advantage of the lengthening spring days, and the expertise of our Executive Director, to do some birding, some socializing, and some sharing of what we all love about volunteers. The birdwalk will begin at 4:30PM (possibly heading off-site, so meet at McClellan Ranch at 4:15PM), with dinner at 6:30PM. Please RSVP no later than **Friday April 8th** to (408) 252-3740 or programs@scvas.org. We look forward to seeing you!

If you've been thinking about getting involved, now is a great time to start! Check out the "Get Involved" pages on our website (www.scvas.org), send me an email at programs@scvas.org, or give me a call at 408-252-3840. With everything from helping with our children's field trips to serving on a committee, we have an opportunity to fit everyone's interests and available time!

Conservation Corner

by Shani Kleinhaus

Environmental Advocate (EA)

Here are some of the projects that your EA and Environmental Action Committee are working on:

Panoche Valley

With dedicated volunteers (Martha Schauss, Pati Rouzer, Linda Ruthruff and the amazing Jessie Ruthruff), Shani delved into the preparation of the administrative record for our lawsuit. We continue to raise funds and work towards the preservation of this globally Important Bird Area and its many endangered wildlife species.

Stevens Creek Park Project

Supported by SCVAS, Stevens and Permanente Creeks Watershed Council, Friends of Stevens Creek Trail, Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club, The Cupertino Historical Society, and Director Kwok of the Santa Clara Valley Water District and neighbors, the City of Cupertino decided to proceed with the design and environmental review for Phase II of the \$2,700,000 Stevens Creek Park Project. The project will provide for creek restoration and the extension of the Stevens Creek Trail from Blackberry Farm to Stevens Creek Boulevard.

The city was awarded a \$1.2 million California River Parkways grant for the implementation of the project, about 1/3 of the estimated cost. The terms of the grant required that planning begin immediately; on January 18 the Cupertino City Council voted to allocate \$200,000 to start the project. It is not clear if the city can secure the additional funding needed to finish the project, but is seeking additional grants from the Santa Clara Valley Water District and other agencies. The city council will revisit the project in June to examine funding availability.

Other Good News

- The City of Mountain View is proceeding with the preparation of a Burrowing Owl Preservation Plan for Shoreline Park, and is moving ahead with the environmental process for the conversion of (drained) ponds on the golf course into burrowing owl habitat.
- The Sikh temple in South East San Jose (Evergreen area) saw the light and decided to put solar on the roof instead of several acres of open space!
- Heifer International has decided to cancel its plans to build a Learning Center at Hidden Villa. SCVAS was concerned with the proposed location - within the 150-ft riparian setback of Adobe Creek, and on one of the last open space meadows by the creek. We hope that Heifer will continue to explore developing its project in our county, at an appropriate site that would not have adverse impacts on riparian corridors.

Please contact Shani (shani@scvas.org) to:

- Join our Environmental Action Committee and get involved in our advocacy efforts. The committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month, 7:30PM at McClellan Ranch.
- Join our Armchair Activists list and be notified when you can help support our advocacy efforts in your community.
- Request our support when birds and biodiversity are threatened in your community.
- Join our Burrowing Owl Committee and get involved in South Bay Burrowing Owl conservation. Committee meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM at McClellan Ranch Park.

Audubon Classes & Field Seminars - Spring 2011

The following trips are sponsored by the SCVAS Education Committee. To register please call the office at (408) 252-3740. All cancellations require 72-hour prior notification for refunds. Information about our upcoming classes is also available on our website at www.scvas.org.

Name That Bird Tune: Tips and Tricks for Demystifying Bird Song with Jim Liskovec

This short course is intended to focus on the tools and methods of learning bird song at this prime time of year. We will explore the What, How, and When of bird song, and discuss resources available for the learning process. We'll listen to recorded bird song and then practice our listening skills on two morning field trips. Our activity will foster a greater appreciation for the importance of bird songs and add to your enjoyment of birding. Some basic birding experience required.

Dates: *Class:* Mon 4/4, 6:00-9:00PM;
Field: Wed 4/6 & 4/13; 6:30-8:30AM.

Location: *Class:* McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino;
Field: Rancho San Antonio OSP.

Fee: \$30 members; \$35 non-members.
Class limited to 12 participants.



Orange-crowned Warbler
by Tom Grey

Beginning Birding – What’s at My Feeder? with Bob Power

Start your Friday’s off right by relaxing with birds and binoculars at McClellan Ranch. Class will focus on local backyard birds that are attracted to feeders. We’ll discuss bill shape and facial patterns as we work on important field marks used to identify local birds. Songs and calls will be discussed as they occur. Bring Sibley’s Guide to Birds of Western North America and binoculars if you have them; we’ll provide binoculars if you don’t. Entire class is conducted outside in front of our feeders. Please bring a portable lawn chair/camp chair/folding chair, blanket, warm clothing. Enrollment fee includes a copy of the Breeding Bird Atlas of Santa Clara Co.

Dates: Three Friday morning sessions available: 3/25, 4/1, & 4/8; 8-10AM. (please specify which session when signing up).
Location: McClellan Ranch, Cupertino.

Fee: \$10 members *per class*; \$15 non-members (3-class discount: \$25 members; \$35 non-members).

Class size is limited to 11.

SCVAS Events Calendar:

Wed. 3/2; 7:30-9PM

Bay Area Bird Photographers.
Lucy Evans Nature Center, Palo Alto
“Birds and Mammals of Kenya” by Glen Tepke. Go to www.scvas.org/babp for more information.

Tues. 3/08, 9:30AM

Eve Case Bird Discussion Group - meets at the home of Pat Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave., Los Gatos (408) 395-4264
Topic: Eggs

Sat. 3/5, 9AM-12PM

Cavity Nesters Recovery Program (CNRP) Nestbox Training #2
Arastradero OSP, Palo Alto
If you are interested in becoming

a nestbox monitor, but missed the orientation meeting or the first training session in February, it’s not too late! Join David “Tex” Houston as he prepares new monitors for the coming breeding season, including tips on how to clean out the boxes, record the data, and deal with any “surprises” along the way. Please RSVP to (408) 252-3740 or programs@scvas.org.

Tues. 3/9; 6:30PM

Birdathon Kick-Off Party & Movie Viewing
McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino
For anyone involved in a Birdathon Team - as a participant or a sponsor. Join us for laughs, food, friends, a viewing of “Opposable Chums,” and tips to make your birdathon experience a great one! Please RSVP to 408-252-3747.

Wed. 4/6; 7:30-9PM

Bay Area Bird Photographers. Topic TBA – details at www.scvas.org/babp.

Tue. 4/12; 9:30AM

Eve Case Bird Discussion Group - meets at the home of Pat Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave., Los Gatos (408) 395-4264. Topic: Bats

Thur. 4/22

EARTH DAY!

Go out and celebrate the beautiful planet we live on! There are lots of events happening around the area to do just that - go to www.scvas.org for more information.

Wed. 4/13, 4:30PM (Dinner 6:30PM)
Volunteer Appreciation Birdwalk & Gourmet Pizza Party
McClellan Ranch Park.
See page 4 for details



We would like to gratefully acknowledge the generous support of IBM and their IVOC grant on behalf of our Cavity Nesters Recovery Program and Environmental Educational Programs.

Field Notes

(December 2010-January 2011)

by Bill Bousman

Geese through Cormorants

Wintering **Greater White-fronted Geese** were found widely in various places they had settled in, with numbers up to about seven birds. The high count was of 18 birds at the South County Regional Waste Water Authority (SCRWA) ponds in Gilroy on 2 Dec (RWR, FV). Three **Snow Geese** were found at the SCRWA ponds on 2 Dec and a single bird was there on 13 Jan (RWR, FV). Two to three Snows were in a stock pond northeast of Felter and Marsh roads 11-12 Dec (MO'B, DWe, MSi), one seen on 12 Dec was a blue morph. One to two immatures were found at the San Pedro percolation ponds in Morgan Hill 16-22 Jan (AME, RCP). Another immature was near the Los Capitancillos percolation ponds 22-29 Jan (JPa, AV, A&KTh). A continuing immature **Ross's Goose** was seen at Lake Cunningham through 16 Dec (MJM, DWe, JPa). Likely a different immature was in the San Jose-Santa Clara WPCP drying ponds on 19 Dec (WGB et al.). From 19 Jan through the end of the month, one to two adults were seen in various spots around Lake Cunningham (AV, m.ob.). Always scarce in the county, five **Tundra Swans** were seen along Bloomfield Road on 30 Jan (DLSh). A male **Eurasian Wigeon** was found in the Sunnyvale WPCP oxidation ponds on 5 Dec (DWe). Well birded Pond A16 in Alviso had one to two birds from 5 Dec onward (MDo, m.ob.). A pair was seen in Rosendin Pond in eastern Morgan Hill on 5 Dec (SCR et al.). One or more were on Pond A2W on 7 Dec (v.ob.) At least five birds were found on Alviso ponds A11, A14, and A18 on 19 Dec (CJC, JTo, MMR, SCR) and six birds were on ponds A9 and A10 on 9 Jan (MMR, RGJ). A male found in the Palo Alto Baylands on 10 Jan (EFe et al.) remained at least through 21 Jan (v.ob.). A single male was in the SCRWA (Gilroy) treatment ponds on 13 Jan (RWR, FV). **Blue-winged Teal** continued to be found in high numbers at the SCRWA (Gilroy) treatment ponds with at least six there on 2 Dec and a total of 12 on 13 Jan (RWR, FV). Along the Bay, the best spot was Artesian Slough in Alviso with one to nine birds there 15 Dec to Jan 26 (DWe, MSt). A single male was on Pond A17 in Alviso on 19 Dec (MMR) and 9 Jan (MMR, RGJ). A pair turned up along Thompson Creek near Tully Road on 1 Jan (JPa). A single male was in the Palo Alto FCB on 10 Jan (EFe et al.). The peak number of **Redhead** in the Alviso ponds was 270 on 19 Dec (SCR, MMR). A **Long-tailed Duck** was found on Pond A2W on 7 Dec (PKe, RKe, m.ob.) and another bird was seen on Pond A11 in Alviso on 20 Jan (WGB). Both were

one-day wonders. The **Common X Barrow's Goldeneye** has continued on the Los Capitancillos percolation ponds during the period (JPa, MMR). A pair of **Barrow's Goldeneyes** have been regular on Shoreline Lake during the period with an occasional second female seen (m.ob.). An adult male was on Pond A14 in Alviso on 19 Dec (MMR) and a female was in Pond A11 the same day (SCR). A **Red-throated Loon** was seen briefly on Anderson Reservoir on 26 Dec (BM, JMy, RCP et al.). An immature **Com-**

Such rarities as Sandhill Crane, Williamson's Sapsucker, and Eastern Phoebe were overshadowed by the largest winter invasion of Evening Grosbeaks in memory

mon Loon was found at the Los Capitancillos percolation ponds on 2 Dec (JPa) and remained there at least through 14 Dec (m.ob.). A second immature was seen there on 13 Dec (RWR, FV). A bird nearby on the Los Alamitos pond near Hwy 85 on 12 Dec (JPa, RWR, FV) may have been one of the Los Capitancillos birds. Two immatures were on Felt Lake on 20 Dec (AME, DK). A **Pelagic Cormorant** was seen on Pond A11 and the nearby levee on 19 Dec (SCR, MMR), one has been found there occasionally in recent years.

Bitterns through Shorebirds

The **American Bittern** wintering in the vicinity of the Mountain View Forebay was seen again on 3 Dec (R&PF), 10 Jan (EFe et al.), and 30 Jan (FV et al.). The wintering bird previously found at the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) ponds was seen again on 7 Dec (JPa) and 11 Dec (AV). Wintering birds continued near Triangle Marsh in Alviso as well with three found during rough weather on 19 Dec (MMR) and a single bird on 13 Jan (WGB). Other birds included two that were seen on Alviso Slough on 19 Dec (SCR) and one along Coyote Creek on 26 Dec (*fide* AV). Apparently, the same **White-faced Ibis** found in the fall along the Bay between Palo Alto and Mountain View, has remained through the period (m.ob.). Continuing **Bald Eagles** included a pair of adults in the San Antonio Valley on 2 Jan (WGB, RPa) and 29 Jan (SLo et al.) and one or two adults near Anderson Reservoir 26 Dec to 29 Jan (RCP et al., RH) where there is a known nest site. An adult was seen over Stevens

Creek CP on 13 Dec (GCh). A wintering adult was observed at Calero Reservoir 25 Dec-30 Jan (v.ob.). An immature was behind IBM in the Coyote Valley on 26 Dec (RPh et al.). Two adults and an immature were seen in the Isabel Valley on 2 Jan (MMR, SCR, RGJ). An adult was over the Parkway Lakes on 19 Jan (*fide* MDo). An adult and two immatures were seen at Coyote Reservoir where there is a known nest site on 29 Jan (RWR et al.). One-to-two **Ferruginous Hawks** were seen in well-birded Coyote Valley through the period (m.ob.). An adult and an immature were near Calaveras Reservoir for much of December (v.ob.). Single light-morph and dark-morph adults were along Coyote Ridge on 26 Dec (SCR). A dark-morph bird was found with six light morphs in the Isabel Valley on 2 Jan (MMR, SCR, RGJ). An adult was seen in nearby San Antonio Valley on 2 Jan (WGB, RPa) and 29 Jan (SLo et al.) and a juvenile was there as well on the latter date. Away from typical locations, single birds were seen near Pacheco Pass on 3 Jan (JB) and near Arastradero Preserve on 9 Jan (JJ et al.). A **Prairie Falcon** continued to be seen in the Coyote Valley during the period (v.ob.) and four other birds were found in various locations in the Diablo Range. An immature **Sandhill Crane** was found along Thompson Creek on 19 Jan (AV) and was found most often near Lake Cunningham through the period, pleasing many observers. This is the first crane since the fall of 2007, and the first chaseable bird since 2000. **Snowy Plovers** are sporadic locally in winter. Birds were found again on Pond A12 on 30 Dec (RWR) and remained there through the period with a high count of six on 9 Jan (MMR, RGJ). On the same date another bird was seen east of the Alviso Marina CP and seven were tallied on closed refuge ponds (MMR, RGJ). Searching for the Sandhill Crane at Lake Cunningham, a **Solitary Sandpiper** found on 26 Jan (DWe), was an unexpected bonus. It was found both there and along Thompson Creek through the end of the month (m.ob.). This is our third winter record. One to seven **Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen on Pond A12 in Alviso 19 Dec to 20 Jan (MMR, SCR, RGJ, WGB) with a high count of seven on 9 Jan (MMR, RGJ). A single bird was nearby east of Alviso Marina CP on 19 Dec (MMR, SCR) and 1 Jan (DPe *fide* MMR). Two birds were found on closed refuge ponds on 9 Jan (MMR, RGJ) and an unexpected bird was found inland at Lake Cunningham on 19 Jan (AV). **Sanderlings** were centered on Pond A12 during the period with a peak count of 56 on 9 Jan (MMR, RGJ).

Gulls through Phainopepla

An adult **Glaucous Gull** at Almaden Lake on 4 Dec (SCR) was a treat. A 2nd-winter bird was seen on Pond A11 in Alviso on 19 Dec (SCR) and possibly the same bird was nearby in Pond A12 on 9 Jan (MMR, RGJ). A 1st-winter

Field Notes *cont'd*

bird was on the Ogier Avenue ponds on 29 Jan (SCR). Absent since July, **Black Skimmers** appeared on 20 Dec (WGB, JMe) with 16 birds on the northwest island in Pond A1, moving later in the day to Charleston Slough and the Mountain View Forebay. Lesser numbers were found at the latter locations through 12 Jan (v.ob.). A **Greater Roadrunner** was seen along Hellyer Avenue in the foothills 22-26 Dec (BJ, *fide* AV). Another bird was seen in Joseph Grant CP on 12 Jan (DPo et al.) and on 31 Jan (ES, CS). **Short-eared Owls** have shown up again this winter to forage for voles in Coyote Valley. Three were found on 24 Dec (MJM) and have been seen through the period with a high count of four on 27 Dec (JPa, AV, RWR). **Lewis's Woodpeckers** were reported in good numbers on the Mt. Hamilton CBC on 2 Jan, 33 were tallied in San Antonio Valley (WGB, RPa) and seven were counted in Isabel Valley (MMR, SCR, RGJ). The highlight of the CBC season was a female **Williamson's Sapsucker** at Foothill College on 20 Dec (NT et al.). It was only found once more, on 22 Dec (RWR, FV). This is only the third or fourth record in the county of this Sierran species. The female **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** wintering over the county line in Menlo Park was seen again on 20 Dec (*fide* AME) and 2 and 27 Jan (CB). It has not been seen to stray south of San Francisquito Creek this winter. A female **Red-naped Sapsucker** was found in San Antonio Valley on 2 Jan (WGB, RPa). At least three hybrid sapsuckers were found during the period, most considered to be Red-naped X Red-breasted. A wintering bird along Creek Drive in Menlo Park was seen and photographed on 20 Dec (EE *fide* RCP) and was seen again on 27 Jan (CB). A second bird was photographed near IBM on Bailey Avenue on 26 Dec (BH). A third was seen near Lake Cunningham on 30 Jan (FO, BD) and was mostly Red-naped. An **Eastern Phoebe** was found at the south end of Snell Avenue on 26 Jan (BBa, RPa *fide* AV). It did not remain. Interestingly, of our five recorded birds in the county, three have been discovered on CBCs. **Tree and Violet-green Swallows** were found irregularly through the period, sometimes in large flocks (m.ob.). Of our rarer wintering swallows,



Eastern Phoebe
by Tom Grey

a single **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was seen over Lake Cunningham on 30 Jan (MJM) and three **Barn Swallows** were recorded at the Sunnyvale WPCP on 15 Dec (MSt)

and three others were over Chesbro Reservoir on 29 Dec (JPa). The irruption of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** appears to have lessened during the period with perhaps nine or so birds reported. Flatland **Pygmy Nuthatches** included reports along San Francisquito Creek at three locations: near Everett and Palo Alto avenues (WGB, AME), the bike bridge at San Mateo Drive (RF), and Piers Lane off Alpine Road (PDU). Two **House Wrens** were found during the period, one along Stevens Creek above Crittenden Lane on 20 Dec (MMR, ARo) and the other at Kelly Lake in Henry Coe SP on 23 Dec (JY, AL). A single **American Dipper** along Stevens Creek above Mt. Eden Road on 1 Jan (J&RM) and two along Los Gatos Creek above Main Street in Los Gatos on 11 Jan (JPa) were in areas where they nest. The only report of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** was of three in the San Felipe Valley on 26 Dec (MMR). Three wintering **Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers** were found during the period. One was seen along the Stile Ranch Trail in Santa Teresa CP on 2 Dec (MJM) and 4 Jan (JPa). The second was found in Cupertino at the edge of the foothills on 20 Dec (CJC et al.) and the third was along Coyote Creek below Hwy 237 on 1 Jan (TGo). A **Townsend's Solitaire** was seen in Monte Bello OSP near the backpack camp on 28 Dec (RKe, PKe). Two solitaires were northwest of Thompson Road along Skyline Boulevard on 30 Dec (DLSu). Two **Phainopepla** were found in Isabel Valley on 2 Jan (MMR, SCR, RGJ).

Warblers through Evening Grosbeak

An immature **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was found along Thompson Creek on 20 Jan (GM) and was seen again on 23 Jan (AMcD) but not after that. Interestingly, three of our now ten records have occurred in this winter period. A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** along Coyote Creek on the Calero-Morgan Hill CBC on 26 Dec (*fide* AV) was the only one found this winter. A **Palm Warbler** was seen at the end of Embarcadero Way in Palo Alto on 20 Dec (MMR) and has remained there at least until 12 Jan (m.ob.). Two Palm Warblers were found along Richmond Avenue in the Coyote Valley on 26 Dec (RPh et al.) and at least one of these birds has been seen through 16 Jan (m.ob.). The **Northern Waterthrush** wintering in the Charleston Road marsh was heard on 20 Dec (MJM) and was seen there on 1 Jan (MMR, MJM). Three to six **Chipping Sparrows** have been seen irregularly at Jeffrey Fontana Park 23 Dec-3 Jan (JPa). This is the fourth winter that birds have been found there. Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found along Coyote Ridge on 26 Dec (SCR), a place where a few birds are found in most winters. A **Swamp Sparrow** was seen at the Ogier Avenue ponds on 4 Dec (SCR) and another was there on 29 Jan (MDo et al.). One was also found along Alviso Slough on 19 Dec (SCR). Fifteen **White-throated Sparrows** were seen during the period, only two were at



Evening Grosbeak
by Tom Grey

feeders. Wintering **Western Tanagers** included one along San Francisquito Creek above El Camino on 20 Dec (*fide* AME) and another was off Orchard Parkway in Santa Clara on 1 and 8 Jan (RWR et al.). Seven female-type **Great-tailed Grackles** were at the Coyote Creek GC on 24 Dec (MJM), at least a few remained there through the end of the period. Seven birds seen at the Ogier Avenue ponds on 29 Jan (MDo et al.) may be part of this same group. A male **Hooded Oriole** at a Menlo Park feeder 20 Dec (*fide* AME), not far from Santa Clara County, is there for its sixth winter. Ten **Pine Siskins** in Isabel Valley on 2 Jan (MMR, SCR, RGJ) was the only report this winter. Similarly, the 48 **Lawrence's Goldfinches** there that day is also the only report this winter. The big news in the county this winter has been **Evening Grosbeaks!** The earlier fall pattern of birds moving along the edge of the county in Monte Bello OSP in the early morning was repeated with 1-26 birds found there during the period (GHa). Two birds were seen away from dawn in the OSP near Black Mountain on 20 Dec (RWR, FV). Then, on 30 Dec, 11 birds were found feeding on Chinese Pistache berries in a commercial area along Orchard Parkway in Santa Clara (KW) and 1-19 birds have been seen through 17 Jan (m.ob.). Elsewhere, a male was seen near Conniston Court and Blossom Hill Road on 12 Jan (JPa et al.) and about 15 birds were on Wessex Avenue on 14 Jan (AT *fide* AH). On 19 Jan, 15 birds were seen along Heatherstone Avenue in Sunnyvale (ViT). Through the end of the period up to 30 grosbeaks have been found in an approximately 15-block area stretching from Sylvan Park in Mountain View to Mango Park in Sunnyvale. The largest count during the period for Santa Clara County was of 53 birds (in three flocks) over Finn Lane in Los Altos on 28 Jan (PJM). How many birds in total are involved in this invasion is beyond our ken. But they do like the berries of Chinese Pistache (and us humans like the fall color).

Observers: Charlie Bacon (CB), Bruce Barrett (BBa), Joseph Belli (JB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Grace Chavez (GCh), Charles Coston (CJC), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Bob Dunn (BD), Pete

(continued on page 13)

The 2011 SCVAS Spring Birdathon Wants YOU!

Everyone, from beginner to expert birder, can participate in the 2011 SCVAS Spring Birdathon, a **major fundraising event** for SCVAS Conservation efforts and youth environmental education, raising more than \$60,000 in 2010. **Your participation** could help raise even more in 2011.

- **Anyone can join a team** by donating or raising at least \$50.
- **Anyone can be a sponsor.** Check www.scvas.org after Feb. 1, 2011 to pick a Birdathon team or individual to sponsor. Call the office to make a tax deductible donation to a team or individual or donate online at www.scvas.org.
- **Anyone can win fabulous prizes**, from optics and birding trips to entertainment tickets, exotic resort getaways, excellent wines, and much more, by raising money and being a top fundraiser! Top fundraisers get their choice of prizes. This is a fun event folks.

Here are the basics of how to join in the Birdathon fun, raise money and compete for a prize:

1. **Check www.scvas.org/birdathon** for Birdathon rules, information, and prize list after Feb. 1, 2011. Check back, as the prize list will be updated often.
2. **Talk to your birding friends** about forming a **Self-Guided Team** for the 2011 SCVAS Spring Birdathon, pick a day to bird from March 26th to April 24th, inclusive.
3. **Register** yourself and your team or join a **Guided Team** led by one of our many experienced birders (see below) by calling Susan Bell at the SCVAS Office, (408) 252-3747 or online at www.scvas.org. (Check www.scvas.org after February 1, 2011 for a complete list of leaders and teams.)
4. **Plan your birding day** with your self-guided teammates. Create a 4-Hour or 24-hour Birdathon that fits your team. You can design a relaxed and restful Birdathon or one that is creative and energetic. For example:
 - A. Spend four hours on a Saturday snacking in lounge chairs on your patio counting species at your feeders; join a "Big Sit" guided team; or a team that birds several spots in four hours, competing against Bob Power to break that 100 species in 4 hours barrier. (**4-Hour Birdathon Category**)OR

B. Form a team that birds for more than four hours, join an all day guided team, or compete for the "most species" glory by racing around Santa Clara County from before dawn until after dark, birding in as many habitats and locations as humanly possible in a 24-hour period. (**24-hour Birdathon Category**)

5. **Raise money - at least \$50 per team member.** It's so much easier than you think. Most people you know will be delighted to support your efforts for a good environmental education program with a small or large tax-deductible donation. Call, e-mail, or write all your friends, family, coworkers, neighbors, acquaintances, to ask for pledges or donations. Sound too hard? It's not! In recent years, our top fundraisers each raised from \$350 to over \$11,000! You can, too! **Follow the fundraising tips** in your Birdathon packet and you'll find out how easy it can be.
6. **Bird with your team** on your Birdathon Day and have fun!
7. **Collect your pledges** and be sure to turn in the money you've raised, pledge sheets, and results form to the SCVAS office by **May 20th, 5:00 p.m.**, to be eligible for prizes.
8. **Attend the free Birdathon Awards Dinner on Wednesday, June 8**, and find out if you've won a prize. Participate in bird contests and games and maybe win another prize. Share Birdathon stories with other participants over a relaxed, informal dinner. Feel great that you have helped fund SCVAS conservation efforts and youth environmental education, and had such a good time doing it.

The SCVAS Birdathon Committee hopes this is the year YOU will decide to join in the fun!

Can't participate? Please consider sponsoring a team or an individual participant with a donation.

Call Susan Bell at the SCVAS Office, 408-252-3747 or sponsor online at www.scvas.org.

Photographer's Birdathon!

New for 2011: Using the same time period, March 26th to April 24th, photographers can form their own teams, team up with a birder friend, or join a big day team to maximize their chances at photographing the most species. Photographers will compete with other birders for the fundraising prizes but will have their own recognition for best bird photograph, rarest bird, and most identifiable bird species. Photographers winning in each category will be memorialized on a plaque in the SCVAS office. Additionally, the winner of the best bird photograph (judged contest) and the rarest bird photograph, will have their photos featured on our web-site and framed and featured in our office for one year. At the end of the year, the photo will be given to the photographer or donated to the following year's birdathon prizes.

Dust off your lenses and clear your calendars. Photographers, time to join in the fun!

"Go Guided" – Join one of our Prearranged Spring Birdathon Teams

We are looking for all levels of birders to join one of our prearranged Big-sit, 4-hour, or 24-hour (maximum count time) Guided Birdathon teams. All you have to do is raise the minimum requirement of \$50, grab your binoculars and go birding! Beginners can out-compete experts for great prizes by gathering more donations. Space on guided teams is limited. Register for and see descriptions of these teams at www.scvas.org/birdathon. Except where noted, teams are for adults over 17. The registration deadline is one week before the trip date. Each leader will contact you with complete details.

24-hour Birdathon Teams

Condor Convoy with Howard Higley - Sat, April 2

Visit Pinnacles National Monument to see the endangered California Condor and learn about the recovery and reintroduction program. Your participation includes a suggested donation to Pinnacles Partnership, a non-profit organization supporting the condor project, as well as a presentation on condor monitoring and management. May include a hike of several miles. Because this is an out-of-county Birdathon, this team will not be competing for best bird or most species. Transportation included. Meet at McClellan Ranch office at 6:30AM for an all day trip. Limit 8 team members.

Persistent Picidae with Lisa Myers (Let's Go Birding) - Sun, April 3

The Picidae will start at 7:30 AM and count until dusk in select spots around Santa Clara County. This is the perfect team regardless of your birding skill level - everyone is welcome, you'll have a great time and team members are gracious and helpful for all who wish to participate. If you need a pair of binoculars, let us know when you sign up and they will be pro-

vided. Group size up to 20. 100+ species.

Bob-O-Links with Bob Power - Sat, April 16

Join our very own Executive Director whose leadership style will complement all birding levels. This is a perfect team if you haven't done a Birdathon before, but want to experience a fast-paced big-day with a leader who can find all the birds! Dawn to dusk. 140+ species.

Rock Wrens with Bob Hirt - Sun, April 17

Join this long-time birder and SCVAS Board Member for an active day in the field. They'll start early for owls in the western foothills, zigzag to the Bay for shorebirds, and then climb up the eastern slope, ending after dusk. Bob is ready to help beginning birders join the excitement! 140+ species.

Varied Twitchers with Mike Rogers - Sat, April 23

This is a high intensity day with one of the Bay Area's premier birders. Start your big-day early with owling and continue until sunset. This team impressively holds the record for winning all the 24-hour Most Species awards since 2003. 160+ species.

4-hour Birdathon Teams

Hi-Speed Rails with Bob Power - Sun, April 3

Join Bob on his Stevens Creek blitz, finding Osprey to Orioles. Start at Stevens Creek Reservoir and end at Mountain View Shoreline to visit a hefty mix of habitats. Expect a fast-pace while birding 8 AM to noon. 80+ species.

Cupertino Creek Cruisers with Debi Jamison - Sat, April 9 (rain date April 10)

Help with this annual survey of birds along the reaches of Stevens Creek from McClellan Road to Stevens Creek Blvd. in Cupertino.

The first part of the survey will be conducted as a 4-hour Birdathon. Then we will continue on for about three hours more to complete the survey, including the Stockmeir property (next in line for creek restoration). You can participate in the Birdathon part only or the entire survey. This will be the 2nd year of surveying the newly restored and renovated Blackberry Farm and the 9th consecutive year of the survey in conjunction with the birdathon! 40+ species.

Rushing Thrushes with Bob Power - Sun, April 10

Bob's east-side blitz will start east of Milpitas and end in Alviso, exploring the unique habitats of the Diablo Foothills and the bay. Join the fast-pace chase 8 AM to noon. 80+ species.

Surf Scoters with Susan Bell - Sun, April 17

Bird the marshes of Alviso Slough from a unique vantage point – aboard the historic 44-foot tugboat the *Sea Dive*. Join first-mate Susan Bell and Captain Charles Bell and cruise the slough for a few hours then finish counting on shore. Meet at noon in Alviso. Refreshments are included. Limit 6 team members. 30+ species.

Cheeky Chickadees with Debbie Thompson - Sat, April 23

Fun but productive birding is the main objective with longtime SCVAS Board Member. They will visit a slice of the bay area – from the wetlands to the woodlands – to uncover as many species as possible, 8 AM to noon. 70+ species.



Big-sit Challenge Birdathon Teams

Yellow-rumped Squatters with Lori Cuesta - Sat, April 9

Join Lori's team at our headquarters in McClellan Ranch Park in Cupertino (location TBC) from 8 AM to noon to see how many species you can identify from a single spot using scopes to search the surrounding trees and grounds. This team will participate in the Big-sit Challenge - multiple teams in multiple locations competing against each other on the same day! 40+ species.

Eagle Eyes with Bob Power - Sat, April 9

Bob's Big-sit Challenge team will be counting from the north face of Coyote Lake at the dam. The Big-sit Birdathon is perfect for those that don't want to spend a lot of time chasing around town. 40+ species.

DataSets with Stephanie Ellis (SFBBQ) - Sat, April 9

Continuing a great tradition of SFBBQ-SCVAS support and collaboration, the DataSets will migrate over to Byxbee Park in

Palo Alto for a morning of shorebirds (and maybe even some owl-y surprises) amid the fun landscape art installations. Carpooling will be encouraged as parking can be very tight. 40+ species.



Western Teenagers with Kathy Hendig - Sat, April 9

This team is for our young birders ages 12-16. They will count birds at Alum Rock Park from 8 AM to noon. Afterwards, they will have a special presentation with live birds at the Youth Science Institute headquarters. Limit 10 team members. 40+ species.

2010 SANTA CLARA COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Species	SJ 12/19/10	PA 12/20/10	MtH 1/02/11	Cal-MH 12/26/10	Species	SJ 12/19/10	PA 12/20/10	MtH 1/02/11	Cal-MH 12/26/10
Greater White-fronted Goose	1	7	-	-	Ferruginous Hawk	2	-	9	5
Snow Goose	-	CW	-	-	Golden Eagle	20	-	5	18
Ross's Goose	1	-	-	-	American Kestrel	70	24	8	113
Cackling Goose	37	6	-	-	Merlin	6	5	3	11
Canada Goose	1820	1056	6	270	Peregrine Falcon	12	12	-	10
Wood Duck	2	7	33	99	Prairie Falcon	2	-	2	2
Gadwall	1140	281	6	103	falcon sp.	2	-	-	1
Eurasian Wigeon	6	2	-	-	Clapper Rail	-	7	-	-
American Wigeon	2270	621	117	37	Virginia Rail	61	4	1	3
Mallard	1705	848	102	666	Sora	73	9	-	1
Blue-winged Teal	1	1	1	-	Common Moorhen	18	3	-	14
Cinnamon Teal	87	26	-	1	American Coot	7475	3816	353	1208
Northern Shoveler	16586	9048	9	2	Black-bellied Plover	739	160	-	-
Northern Pintail	386	323	-	-	Semipalmated Plover	182	322	-	-
Green-winged Teal	1859	349	-	19	Killdeer	244	18	32	171
Canvasback	2627	1745	-	40	Black-necked Stilt	947	311	-	-
Redhead	404	21	-	-	American Avocet	2636	958	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	42	202	13	54	Spotted Sandpiper	4	3	-	9
Greater Scaup	584	85	-	60	Greater Yellowlegs	71	33	3	2
Lesser Scaup	3085	1004	-	25	Willet	92	1715	-	-
<i>aythya</i> , sp	2622	13790	-	3	Lesser Yellowlegs	6	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	114	427	-	-	Long-billed Curlew	663	284	-	1
Bufflehead	1513	148	79	115	Marbled Godwit	307	2641	-	-
Common Goldeneye	210	142	-	32	Sanderling	69	-	-	-
Barrow's Goldeneye	2	3	-	-	Western Sandpiper	4779	2271	-	-
Hooded Merganser	13	27	10	12	Least Sandpiper	3247	193	-	26
Common Merganser	61	21	8	78	<i>calidrid</i> , sp	100	802	-	-
Red-breasted Merganser	101	5	-	-	Dunlin	2071	654	-	-
Ruddy Duck	4884	5177	61	120	Short-billed Dowitcher	12	2	-	-
duck, sp	460	-	6	6	Long-billed Dowitcher	429	355	-	-
California Quail	192	156	1571	578	dowitcher, sp	1026	340	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	5	3	-	3	Wilson's Snipe	20	3	2	1
Wild Turkey	184	19	8	403	Bonaparte's Gull	971	244	-	-
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	1	Mew Gull	101	4	-	1
Common Loon	-	2	-	-	Ring-billed Gull	1694	361	-	23
Pied-billed Grebe	152	58	13	83	Western Gull	529	83	-	2
Horned Grebe	18	8	-	2	California Gull	3457	4148	-	1125
Eared Grebe	4317	48	-	-	Herring Gull	3070	94	-	861
Western Grebe	101	34	-	46	Thayer's Gull	109	4	-	87
Clark's Grebe	86	11	-	2	Glaucous-winged Gull	1060	82	-	75
<i>aechmophorus</i> , sp	130	24	-	-	Western x Glaucous-w Gull	1	1	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	717	303	7	217	Glaucous Gull	1	-	-	-
Pelagic Cormorant	1	-	-	-	gull, sp	2802	2740	-	1571
American White Pelican	129	35	-	15	Forster's Tern	55	110	-	-
Brown Pelican	40	24	-	-	Black Skimmer	-	16	-	-
American Bittern	5	-	-	1	Rock Pigeon	2333	747	21	1863
Great Blue Heron	50	21	8	26	Band-tailed Pigeon	40	1	27	74
Great Egret	103	45	-	125	Eurasian Collard-Dove	11	11	-	152
Snowy Egret	108	90	-	30	Mourning Dove	643	662	111	659
Green Heron	3	5	-	5	Greater Roadrunner	-	-	-	1
Black-crowned Night-Heron	192	132	3	38	Barn Owl	1	5	-	6
White-faced Ibis	-	CW	-	-	Western Screech-Owl	2	7	3	10
Turkey Vulture	135	70	-	217	Great Horned Owl	4	19	2	4
Osprey	1	-	-	6	Northern Pygmy-Owl	-	-	1	1
White-tailed Kite	28	53	-	125	Burrowing Owl	3	2	-	2
Bald Eagle	4	-	6	3	Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	3
Northern Harrier	25	12	-	11	Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	1	-	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	10	2	11	White-throated Swift	1	9	-	35
Cooper's Hawk	16	24	6	25	Anna's Hummingbird	131	317	19	278
<i>accipiter</i> , sp	3	1	1	1	hummingbird sp.	-	-	-	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	31	58	4	73	Belted Kingfisher	15	5	4	20
Red-tailed Hawk	182	113	56	214	Lewis's Woodpecker	-	-	76	-

Species	SJ 12/19/10	PA 12/20/10	MtH 1/02/11	Cal-MH 12/26/10
Acorn Woodpecker	72	207	187	345
Williamson's Sapsucker	-	1	-	-
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	1	-	-
Red-naped Sapsucker	-	-	1	-
Red-breasted Sapsucker	5	2	14	19
Red-breasted x Red-naped Sapsucker	-	1	-	1
Nuttall's Woodpecker	62	100	36	124
Downy Woodpecker	10	16	3	19
Hairy Woodpecker	-	31	6	23
Northern (Red-Shafted) Flicker	140	133	96	196
(Yellow-Shafted) Flicker	-	-	-	1
(intergrade)	3	-	-	-
Unidentified form	-	-	31	1
Pileated Woodpecker	-	1	-	-
Black Phoebe	292	249	37	365
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	1
Say's Phoebe	22	14	10	54
Loggerhead Shrike	14	3	1	14
Hutton's Vireo	2	29	1	14
Steller's Jay	70	250	12	213
Western Scrub-Jay	302	582	276	854
Yellow-billed Magpie	199	-	156	174
American Crow	1078	989	57	1069
Common Raven	116	145	69	105
Horned Lark	10	-	-	309
Tree Swallow	133	13	-	CW
Violet-green Swallow	-	1	-	-
Barn Swallow	-	-	-	CW
swallow sp	100	4	-	-
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	155	714	-	244
Oak Titmouse	48	300	188	287
Bushtit	692	1130	99	701
Red-breasted Nuthatch	8	1	-	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	27	56	85	129
Pygmy Nuthatch	-	9	-	-
Brown Creeper	4	25	5	9
Rock Wren	6	-	-	32
Bewick's Wren	50	152	37	130
House Wren	1	1	1	2
Pacific (Winter) Wren	-	3	-	1
Marsh Wren	139	18	1	2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	1	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	1	2	3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	113	237	31	282
Wrentit	22	81	77	44
Western Bluebird	155	140	208	364
Hermit Thrush	44	85	47	41
American Robin	450	1866	76	1376
Varied Thrush	-	8	14	4
Northern Mockingbird	91	40	-	68
California Thrasher	5	41	50	39
European Starling	2665	4568	370	1729
American Pipit	86	204	-	41
Cedar Waxwing	660	1864	30	699
Phainopepla	-	-	3	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	6	9	-	2
Yellow-rumped Warbler (form?)	720	166	12	374
(Audubon's)	287	698	-	219
(Myrtle)	6	4	-	6
Black-throated Gray Warbler	-	-	-	1
Townsend's Warbler	16	94	1	37
Palm Warbler	-	1	-	2

Species	SJ 12/19/10	PA 12/20/10	MtH 1/02/11	Cal-MH 12/26/10
Northern Waterthrush	-	1	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	86	34	-	6
Spotted Towhee	25	151	55	89
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	-	-	1	91
California Towhee	271	404	76	306
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	CW
Lark Sparrow	71	-	5	69
Sage Sparrow	-	-	14	-
Savannah Sparrow	165	50	14	159
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	-	2
Fox Sparrow	18	19	110	5
Song Sparrow	557	126	4	107
Lincoln's Sparrow	62	8	3	11
Swamp Sparrow	1	-	-	-
White-throated Sparrow	2	3	-	-
White-crowned Sparrow	1688	1172	434	1280
Golden-crowned Sparrow	517	813	176	498
sparrow, sp	32	110	-	68
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	337	900	857	553
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	-	-	5	-
Western Tanager	-	1	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	1047	2556	199	1301
Tricolored Blackbird	-	10	338	1
Western Meadowlark	208	363	55	510
Brewer's Blackbird	1062	306	440	732
Great-tailed Grackle	-	-	-	7
Brown-headed Cowbird	43	13	-	7
blackbird, sp	416	240	257	409
Hooded Oriole	-	1	-	-
Purple Finch	-	38	2	25
House Finch	2046	791	30	1161
Pine Siskin	-	30	19	-
Lesser Goldfinch	267	257	66	243
Lawrence's Goldfinch	-	-	48	-
American Goldfinch	168	98	-	134
goldfinch, sp	-	-	6	-
Evening Grosbeak	-	3	-	-
House Sparrow	125	25	11	58
Total Species	163	169	100	150
Total Count	112,313	85,163	8,373	31,040

Key: sp = species undetermined
CW = Count Week

SJ = San Jose, compiled by Kirsten Holmquist
PA = Palo Alto, compiled by Al Eisner
MtH = Mount Hamilton, compiled by Bob Hirt
Cal-MH = Calero-Morgan Hill, compiled by Ann Verdi

Data entry and chart format by Bonnie Bedford-White.

2010 Christmas Bird Count Summaries

Palo Alto CBC

by Al Eisner, compiler

Conditions for the Palo Alto CBC on December 20 were quite decent, with only one party from the higher elevations reporting significant rain. We wound up with a respectable 169 species, a few above the average for the past decade.

The bird of the count (a first-ever), was the Williamson's Sapsucker reported from Foothill College by Nancy Teater et al. Rounding out the unusual Sapsuckers were the returning Yellow-bellied and a hybrid Red-naped X Red-breasted, both in the Creek Drive area of Menlo Park (San Mateo Co.). Yet only 2 pure Red-breasted were recorded on the count! Also in Menlo Park, a male Hooded Oriole at a private feeder was recorded (Bob Power) for its third successive year. A Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher found by Chuck Coston's party near Gate of Heaven Cemetery was only the second-ever for the count. A Palm Warbler, found by Mike Rogers in Palo Alto, was the first in 14 years.

Scattered reports of Evening Grosbeak in the fall had raised our hopes for this species, which had been fairly regular in the 1980s, but missing from the count since 1990. And several indeed showed up, at Montebello OSP (2 on Montebello Ridge, reported by Bob Reiling and Frank Vanslager, and 1 observed by Garth Harwood at pond MB05). Of course, since then, there have been numerous Santa Clara Valley reports. Another invasive species, Red-breasted Nuthatch, had also been the subject of scattered reports in the fall, but less so since then, and we managed only 1 on the count.

Other notable species included Greater White-fronted and Cackling Goose (both now regular) at Shoreline Park, 2 Common Loons at Felt Lake, 13 Tree Swallows in two flocks, one of which also included a Violet-green, a House Wren along Stevens Creek (third time in the past five years for this formerly-rarer species), the perpetual Northern Waterthrush at the Chareleston Road Marsh, and a Western Tanager at Stanford. One each of Snow Goose and White-faced Ibis were seen during count-week, but not on count-day.

We missed four species we usually find: Whimbrel and Sanderling (due to

The Avocet 12



Williamson's Sapsucker
by Tom Grey

unfortunate tidal timing, which also cost us Ruddy Turnstone and Red Knot), Golden Eagle and Northern Pygmy-Owl. The single Band-tailed Pigeon was way short of usual numbers (290 last year), while American Crow hit another new high -- although I wonder

if there is some double-counting of traveling flocks.

Thanks to Jack Cole for organizing the count, and to all those who braved good or poor conditions to participate.

San Jose CBC

by Kirsten Holmquist,
Coordinator and Compiler

The Jose Christmas Bird Count went forward under blustery and sometimes soggy conditions. The bulk of the storm passed through in the night and very early morning. Numbers for smaller birds were clearly affected by the conditions. Some species usually seen, such as Purple Finch, were nowhere to be found. The water level in the bay habitat was very high until late in the day, affecting shorebirds as well. The final species count was the lowest since I've taken over this circle. We had a species total of 163. 94 volunteers braved the day to conduct the count. Thanks to all.

For the second year in a row, a Pelagic Cormorant was found on the San Jose CBC. This cormorant was once again found along the edge of A-11 (Mike Rogers, Steve Rottenborn). Eurasian Wigeons were reported from a number of locations around the bay (Steve Rottenborn on A-10, Mike Rogers on A-14, Charles Coston on



Pelagic Cormorant
by Tom Grey

A-18, and Bill Walker, Mary Wisnewski, Lori Cuesta, Rob Furrow on A-21). Tree Swallows were reported in unprecedented numbers around the bay, including by Mike Rogers (4 over the Marina), Charles Coston and Jack Tomlin (35 over A-18), Roland Kenner and Pat Kenny (80 at Sunnyvale Baylands), and Bruce Barrett, Steve Tracey, and Monica Spiller (10+ at A-16). Horned Grebes made numerous appearances as well, including Mike Rogers (1 on A-12, 5 on A-14), Steve Rottenborn (6 on A-11, 2 on A-10), and Bruce Barrett et al (1 on A-16). Also reported along the shoreline area of the count were: 1) a Ross's Goose (Bill Bousman, Jim Thomas, Todd Brown at the WPCP), 2) an Osprey (Bill Walker et al flying over Drawbridge), 3) Lesser Yellowlegs (Mike Rogers on A-12 and David McIntyre, Dale Stahlecker), 4) Blue-Winged Teal (Mike Rogers on A-17), 5) Barrow's Goldeneye (Mike Rogers on A-14 and Steve Rottenborn on A-11), 6) a Glaucous Gull (Steve Rottenborn on A-11), and 7) Swamp Sparrow (Steve Rottenborn on A-12).

On the eastern side of the count, a couple of Ferruginous Hawks were seen along Calaveras Reservoir by Rob & Rita Colwell, Tom Olsen, and Julie Bryson. That same team also had a Cackling Goose at the south end of the reservoir. Allen Royer picked up another Horned Grebe on the reservoir itself. Lake Cunningham counters found a couple goodies as well. Janna Pauser, Phyllis Swanson, and Brent Thordarson picked up a Cackling Goose at the lake. That same team found yet another pair of Horned Grebes on the lake. Janna Pauser also found a Greater White-fronted Goose at Ocala Middle School. In more urban areas, Ann Verdi, Mike Azevedo, and Rich Page discovered a White-Throated Sparrow at Overfelt Gardens and Richard Jeffers found another along the Los Gatos Creek Trail. Frank Vanslager recorded a Eurasian Collard-Dove near Capitol Expressway.

Mt. Hamilton CBC

by Bob Hirt,
Coordinator and Compiler

We had 33 participants this year (17 new counters), 10 more than last year. The 9 team leaders were: Bill Bousman, Mike Rogers, Kirsten Holmquist, Bob Power,

(continued)

Count Summaries *cont'd*

Charles Coston, Mike Azevedo, Elinor Gates, Sarah Estrella and Bob Hirt. Additional participants were: Kitty Trejo, Marti Wright, Keith Baker, Tadd and Debbie Ottman, Petra Kinsman, Leighton Nakata, Bruce Mast, Calvin Lou, Robert Shields, Jeff Smith, Steve Rottenborn, Richard Jeffers, Joan Coston, Hazel Donaldson, Jack Tomlin, Sarah and David Perrin, Rich Page, Daniel Burmester, Rob Furrow, Brenda Senturia, Bill Walker, and Mary Wisniewski.

100 species; 8,373 individuals (both 5 year high counts). A male Blue-winged Teal spotted by Jeff Smith was new to the count and the Red-naped Sapsucker seen by Bill Bousman and Rich Page was only the 2nd in the 30 year history of the Mount Hamilton count. 1,571 California quail was a 5 year high. 9 Ferruginous Hawks, 5 Bald Eagles, and 10 Hooded Mergansers were also exceptional. The area also had 76 Lewis's Woodpeckers and 48 Lawrence's Goldfinches. 156 Yellow-billed Magpies was the high end of an increasing 4 year trend so some recovery seems to be in progress. Notable misses were Chestnut-backed Chickadee (3rd straight year) and American Goldfinch (2nd year). Roadrunner has been absent 5 years now.

Temperatures ranged from 35 to 47 degrees depending on elevation (4,200 ft down to ~2,000). It rained lightly all day and we only saw slight snow flurries at the end of the day at the summit. The higher elevation count areas had fog most of the day. Waterways and streams were very full

and some area access was limited due to flooded stream crossings. Special thanks to the ranches that permit us access (Isabel, Arnold, A2Z, and Hurner/Stoddard), to the employees of the Observatory (The Bakers and the Perrins) and especially to Elinor Gates for graciously opening her home again for the terrific compilation dinner. We added a contiguous parcel within our area this year (San Antonio Valley Ecological Reserve) and with the help of Sarah Estrella and Daniel Burmester of the California Department of Fish and Game, we added 743 more individuals of 37 species.

It was a terrific count again.

Calero-Morgan Hill CBC

by Ann Verdi

Coordinator and Compiler

The Calero-Morgan Hill CBC was held on Dec 26, 2010 with a final total of 149 species. Although early morning started out rainy, the weather cleared by mid-morning and we had a good count day although we had to contend with some muddy trails. On this year's count we had some interesting highs and lows to report. On the whole duck numbers were lower on our reservoirs and ponds, and we had a low variety of shorebirds including missing Wilson's Snipe for the first time ever for this count. On the other hand, we did well with 14 different raptor species, including Bald Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, and Prairie Falcon, and we tallied 7 different owl species (Barn Owl, W. Screech-

Owl, Great Horned Owl, N. Pygmy-Owl, Burrowing Owl, Short-eared Owl, N. Saw-whet Owl). We also found unusually high numbers of some species which were mostly seen in Coyote Valley - 125 Great Egrets, 125 White-tailed Kites, and a whopping 152 Eurasian Collared Doves. Rare birds reported included Red-throated Loon, Greater Roadrunner, Burrowing Owl, Short-eared Owl, Red-breasted X Red-naped Sapsucker, N. (Yellow-shafted) Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Palm Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, Great-tailed Grackle, plus Count Week birds (Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, and Chipping Sparrow). We added three new species to our list this year: Short-eared Owl (3), Eastern Phoebe (1), and Palm Warbler (2). The Short-eared Owls and Palm Warblers were both found in Coyote Valley, and the Eastern Phoebe was seen at the base of the Santa Teresa Hills at the end of Snell Ave. Other special birds which can be hard to find included Horned Grebe, American Bittern, and Pacific Wren. While these specialities are the "icing on the cake", most of us spent the day recording our common resident and wintering birds, and we showed good solid numbers with these birds, so I want to thank everyone who participated in this year's count. As always, the success of any CBC depends on the diligence and enthusiasm of our counters - and we did well on both scores. Hope you can join us on the 2011 CBC.

Field Notes (*Observers cont'd from page 7*)

Dunten (PDU), Ed Ehmke (EE), Al Eisner (AME), Eric Feuss (EFe), Ron & Patty Fulks (R&PF), Rob Furrow (RF), Tom Goodier (TGo), Beth Hamel (BH), Garth Harwood (GHa), Ann Hepenstal (AH), Rick Herder (RH), Richard Jeffers (RGJ), Jim Johnson (JJ), Bob Juhl (BJ), Roland Kenner (RKe), Pat Kenny (PKe), David Kohler (DK), Steve Lombardi (SLo), Amy Lauterbach (AL), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Ginny Marshall (GM), Bruce Mast (BM), Amy McDonald (AMcD), Peter Metropulos (PJM), John Meyer (JMe), Julio & Renee Mulero (J&RM), Jean Myers (JMy), Matthew O'Brien (MO'B), Florence Oliver (FO), Richard Page (RPa), Rob Paull (RPa), Janna Pauser (JPa), Don Pendleton (DPe), Dennis Porter (DPo), Bob Power (RCP), Ryan Phillips (RPh), Bob Reiling (RWR), Alma Rogers (ARo), Mike

Rogers (MMR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Eileen Sangster (ES), Debi Shearwater (DLSh), Marty Sidor (MSi), Carol Silvera (CS), Michael Strom (MSt), David Suddjian (DLSu), Nancy Teater (NT), Andrew Tey (AT), Alan & Karen Thomas (A&KTh), Vivek Tiwari (ViT), Jack Tomlin (JTo), Frank Vanslager (FV), Ann Verdi (AV), Dave Weber (DWe), Ken Wilson (KW), and Jim Yurchenco (JY).

RARITIES: Please drop me a note:
Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way,
Menlo Park, CA 94025,
or: barlowi@earthlink.net

Gene Troetschler 1923-2011

The Audubon community is greatly saddened over the passing of Gene Troetschler on February 1st, 2011. Gene and his wife, Ruth, have been active members in SCVAS for many years, and integral parts of our conservation programs. His smile, support, and optimism will be sorely missed.

Friends and family members gathered to celebrate his life on February 13th at Shoup Park in Los Altos.

“The Amazing Bird Chase”

SCVAS’ Spring Scavenger Hunt

A fun, fast-paced, and exciting way to learn new birds, challenge your birding skills, and help SCVAS raise money for its education programs! Participants will race against the clock to locate and correctly ID common birds and bird behaviors at several open space areas (with lots of help from SCVAS & MROSD staff and birding volunteers). We will provide everything your group needs to participate - all you need to bring is a vehicle (to travel between locations), your “eagle” eyes, and your enthusiasm! Awards will be given for completed bird lists, best “rare” bird, fastest team, and more.

NO prior birding experience necessary!

Join us for one (or both!) of the Chase Dates:

Session 1

Date: Saturday, April 9th

Time*: 9AM-12PM

**Locations: Rancho San Antonio,
Pichetti Ranch**

(co-sponsored by the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District)

Rain Date: April 16th

**Each session lasts a maximum of 3 hours, but groups can participate for any or all of the allotted time.*



Session 2

Date: Sunday, April 10th

Time*: 1-4PM

**Locations: Palo Alto Baylands,
Charleston Slough, Shoreline Lake**

Rain Date: April 17th



Cost to Participate: \$25/group

Note: Participants should form their own groups - family, friends, neighbors, classmates, etc.

Each group must have at least one child, with a maximum of four children per group.

For information about any of the above (and any future) activities, or to register, call 408-252-3740 or email programs@scvas.org. Additional information is also available online - go to www.scvas.org and click on “Kids’ Corner”

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society supports the

Ninth Annual Going Native Garden Tour

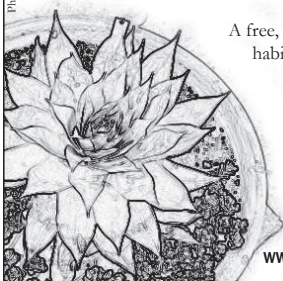
Sunday, April 17, 2011
10 am-4 pm
Locations throughout
Santa Clara Valley & Peninsula



A free, self-guided tour of bird-friendly, habitat-rich gardens landscaped with California native plants • Many private home gardens, some public • Visit as many as you like — for ideas, for photos, for inspiration.

Free admission
Registration required at
www.GoingNativeGardenTour.org

Photo: Agri Kabare



Outside Events:

April 8-10th

(San Juan Cruise 10-12th)

Olympic BirdFest 2011

Visit the rain shadow of the Olympic Peninsula to discover the birds of the coastal Pacific Northwest. Guided field trips, a boat cruise in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, silent auction, and a gala banquet at the Sunland Golf & Country Club. Go to www.olympicbirdfest.org for more details and to register.

April 14-20th

16th Annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival

Arcata, CA

Experience some extraordinary

birding opportunities and beautiful scenery! Register online at www.godwitdays.com.

Sun April 17, 10AM-4PM

Going Native Garden Tour

Locations throughout Santa Clara County

SCVAS is pleased to both support AND participate in this fun event with our Native Plant Garden at McClellan Ranch Park! *See flyer at left.*

April 29-May 2

2nd Annual Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival.

Go online to www.pointreyesbirdingfestival.org for details and information on how to register.

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A special thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their generous support in the Save Panoche Valley Campaign:

Central Valley Bird Club, Jitze and Nancy Couperus, Rose Green, Peter and Suzanne LaTourrette, the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club, Audubon California, the Sacramento Audubon Society, the San Joaquin Audubon Society, the Santa Cruz Bird Club, Mary Ann Trombadore, Robert and Helene Weil.

A special thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their generous In Kind Donations:

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Board of Directors Elections

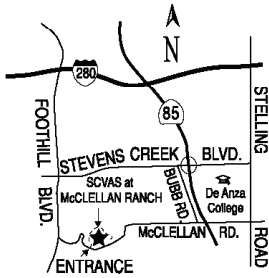
The Nominating Committee of the SCVAS Board of Directors is calling for member petitions for new members of the Board of Directors pursuant to Sections 6.02 of the Bylaws. Petitions must be delivered to the SCVAS office by March 31, 2011.

Voice vote elections will be held during our Annual Meeting and potluck on June 15, 2011 at our office in McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino.

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Altamont

(continued from page 1)

new ones that should significantly reduce risks to birds. We are also mindful that impacts to wildlife will continue and the Audubon chapters will remain engaged in conservation planning and advocacy on behalf of birds and other wildlife in the Altamont Pass and throughout the Bay Area.”

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS meetings are open to all members. Call the office at (408) 252-3747 for times and directions.

RARE BIRD ALERT: (415) 681-7422

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2011 Volume 58, Number 2

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