

# THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

November-December 2011

## Chapter Fights On to Save Panoche Valley

by Shani Kleinhaus - Environmental Advocate

In early September, Superior Court Judge Robert O'Farrell ruled in favor of San Benito County in a lawsuit brought by Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS), Save Panoche Valley (SPV), and the Sierra Club challenging San Benito County's approval of the proposed 4,000-acre solar farm in Panoche Valley and its Environmental Impact Report. On September 13th, the SCVAS Board voted to join Save Panoche Valley in appealing the District Court's ruling to the California Court of Appeal, 6th District, located in San Jose.

"We have excellent grounds for appeal from both the inadequate analysis of environmental impacts, as well as the unprecedented cancellation of Williamson Act contracts. Our Board wants to ensure we've exercised all of our options to save the biological resources in this extraordinary valley that's seen little change in the last 150 years," said Bob Power, Executive Director for the chapter. "Most of these types of cases are decided on appeal," said Rose Zoia, attorney for the appealing groups. "The law and the facts are on our side in this particular case. Our case is strong."

Panoche Valley, 30 miles east of Hollister, is a throwback to wide open spaces that have disappeared throughout the west. Designated by National Audubon as an Important Bird Area of global significance for its large percentage of the world's over-wintering Mt. Plover population, the valley is home to 11 other special status bird species. The Valley has galvanized both farmers and environmentalists beyond the bird community because of its three endangered species: San Joaquin Kit Fox, Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard, and Giant Kangaroo Rat.

Ashok Khosla, President of the SCVAS Board of Directors, stands behind the organization's adopted solar policy: "We can't be trading one extraordinary resource for another. Solar development in urban areas and in retired farming areas with no habitat values

**The Annual  
Christmas Bird  
Count Coming  
Soon - sign up now!**

*see Page 10*

makes for good planning policy and decision-making. Solar development in active, high-quality agricultural areas with extraordinary wildlife value, cannot be supported by our chapter."

### General Membership Meeting

#### "The Buddy System"

by Ashok Khosla and Bill Walker

Wednesday, Nov. 16



Ashok Khosla



Bill Walker

**NOTE NEW LOCATION FOR NOVEMBER (only):**

**Cupertino Community Center - Cupertino Room  
10185 North Stelling Road, Cupertino, CA 95014**

*(go to [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org) for map & directions to this location)*

**Doors open 7:30PM; program 8:00PM**

On Nov. 16, bird photographers Ashok Khosla and Bill Walker will entertain us with stories from a decade of friendship in the field. They have a unique approach to photographing together, building on each other's creativity and experience. We'll see the results of their partnership as they share their photographs from Alaska and Texas -- from Red-throated Loons fighting to the death in the Arctic tundra to a Scaled Quail covey at sunset in the heat of the Rio Grande Valley. Come join us for a special night, reflecting on friendship and birding.



Crested Caracara  
by Ashok Khosla

*Go to the SCVAS website for more information about this program and the speakers.*

•Palo Alto Residents are Urged to Vote "NO" on Measure E

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•Special Classes and Premier-Destination Field Workshops

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•A Painted Bunting and an Orchard Oriole Top Off the Summer!

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# Nov - Dec '11 Field Trips

(Full details for all of our Field Trips are also available online at [www.scvas.org](http://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 Nov. 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. **Directions:** Donald M. Somers Water Pollution Control Plant, junction of Borregas and Caribbean. Meet at Trailhead at north end. **Difficulty Level:** Birding geared toward beginners. **Notes:** Bring binoculars; loaners also available. **RC**

**Saturday Nov. 5, 8:00 AM**

## Alum Rock Park

Half day. **Leader:** Rich Page (408) 377-1092. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 or I-680 take McKee Rd. northeast toward hills, then left on Toyon Ave., right on Penitencia Creek Rd. and continue into park. Drive under the bridge and meet at far end of last parking lot by locked gate. **Difficulty Level:** Expect a moderately strenuous 3-4 mile walk. **Notes:** Looking for resident birds (possible Rufous-Crowned Sparrow if we are lucky), migrants and early wintering birds. Possible entrance fee. **LO, RC**



**Sunday Nov. 6, 9:00 AM**

## Charleston Slough

Half day. **Leader:** Dick Stovel (650) 856-6105. **Directions:** Meet at Terminal Way at the end of San Antonio Rd. north off Hwy 101 in Mountain View. **Difficulty Level:** This is a trip that is geared toward the beginning birder but all are encouraged to attend. **Notes:** Bring a scope if you have one, friends and non-members are always welcome. **IMPORTANT:** Daylight Savings Time change for 2011, fall back or be an hour early for this trip.

**Wednesday Nov. 9, 8:30**

## Alum Rock Park

Half day. **Leader:** Jim Johnson (408) 996-3506. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 or I-680 take McKee Rd. northeast toward hills, then left on Toyon Ave., right on Penitencia Creek Rd. and continue into park. Drive under the bridge and meet at far end of last parking lot by locked gate. **Difficulty Level:** moderate 3 to 4 mile walk. **Notes:** May be muddy. Possible entrance fee. **LO, RC**

**Saturday Nov. 12, 8:00 AM**

## Uvas Creek Park Preserve

Half day. **Leader:** Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 in Gilroy go west on Tenth St. about a mile where it turns right and becomes Uvas Parkway. 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. **Difficulty Level:** Trip is a fairly easy but long walk. **Notes:** Low water conditions in the creek may require an alternate birding destination in the Gilroy area. **LO, RC**



**Sunday Nov. 13, 9:00 AM**

## Western San Francisco

Half day. **Leader:** Alan Hopkins (415) 794-0281. **Directions:** From I-280 take 19th Ave. to Golden Gate Park. When you enter the park on 19th Ave. be in the left lane and take Crossover Dr. to 25th Ave. to Geary Blvd. then left on Geary. At 39th Ave., Geary becomes Point Lobos Ave. continue west on Point Lobos past the light at 48th Ave. and turn right into the new Merrie Way parking lot. **LO, RC**

**Saturday Nov. 19, 8:00 AM**

## Alum Rock Park

Half day. **Leader:** Kirsten Holmquist (408) 747-0988. For directions see the write-up for Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>. **Difficulty Level:** trip is a moderately strenuous 3-4 mile walk. **Notes:** Possible entrance fee. **LO, RC**

## Special Thanksgiving Weekend Trip: Sacramento Valley Wildlife Refuges, Gray Lodge, Sutter Buttes

**Friday – Saturday, Nov. 25 – 26**  
(beginning at 9:00AM on Friday, Nov 25)

Full day and a half. **Leader:** Mike Mammoser (408) 578-2429. Trip limited to 15 people; call leader to reserve a space. **Directions:** Meet at Sacramento NWR headquarters (entrance fee) on I-5 approx. 20 miles north of Williams. (It's recommended that people meet and carpool from McDonald's 2nd parking lot in Williams as carpooling and use of FRS radios, set to Ch 11, will allow for best viewing possibilities on this trip). Take Road 68 exit east (towards Princeton) from I-5, then immediately north on frontage road to Refuge. **Notes:** Bring spotting scope, full tank of gas. Allow for a 3-hour drive from the South Bay. Highlights include ducks, geese, swans, cranes, and raptors. **Difficulty Level:** Trip is highly recommended for beginning birders.

**Sunday Nov. 20, 8:00 AM**

**Oka Ponds**

Half day. **Leader:** Jim Johnson (408) 996-3506. **Directions:** From Hwy 17 in Los Gatos take Lark Ave. exit west. Turn right on Oka Rd., left on Mozart Ave. and an immediate right on Oka Ln. Meet at gate. **RC**

**Saturday Dec. 3, 8:30 AM**

**Charleston Slough**

Half day. **Leader:** Steve Tracey (408) 996-3860. For directions see the Nov 6<sup>th</sup> write-up.

**Sunday Dec. 4, 8:00 AM**

**Sunnyvale Water Treatment Facility**

Half day. **Leader:** Frank Vanslager (650) 961-1505. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 take Hwy 237 east, exit North on Caribbean Dr., turn right on Borregas Ave. then left to the parking area. **Notes:** A great place to study ducks and scopes are highly recommended. **Difficulty Level:** Trip is a fairly easy but long walk on flat levee trails. **RC**

**Wednesday Dec. 7, 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. **Directions:** Donald M. Somers Water Pollution Control Plant, junction of Borregas and Caribbean. Meet at Trailhead

at north end. **Difficulty Level:** Birding geared toward beginners. **Notes:** Bring binoculars; loaners also available. **RC**

**Wednesday Dec. 7, 8:30AM**

**Lake Cunningham, San Jose**

Half day. **Leader:** Phyllis Swanson (408) 274-2349. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 in San Jose, exit Tully Rd. Go east on Tully to the entrance to Lake Cunningham Park, .3 miles past Capitol Expwy (Raging Waters). Turn left into park and left again at the entrance booth. Park in the Marina parking lot. **Notes:** This is the *first* Wednesday in Dec. **RC**

**Sunday Jan. 1, 7:30 AM**

**County Chase**

Half day. **Leader:** Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. Get a head start on your 2012 County Year List with some vagrant chasing. Bring a full tank of gas, lunch, and field guides as we attempt to track down some of the unusual birds seen on the Christmas Bird Counts in Santa Clara County. **Directions:** Meet near the entrance to the Alviso Marina parking lot. From Hwy 237 in San Jose take Gold St. north to the end, bear left on Elizabeth St. and then right on Hope St. to the Marina parking lot. **Notes:** Be prepared to carpool as parking may be limited at some sites. **RC**

**Sunday Jan. 8, 8:00 AM**

**Panoche Valley**

Full day. **Leader:** Clay Kempf (831) 761-8260. **Directions:** Meet at Paicines Store on Hwy 25 approx. 11 miles south of Hollister. **Notes:** This is one of our better "out of the county" field trips traversing oak woodland and open grassland via back roads into a unique habitat. Targeted species include Phainopepla, Mountain Bluebird, Prairie Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk and Golden Eagle; other possibilities include Mountain Plover, Bald Eagle, Vesper Sparrow, Greater Roadrunner and Chukar. **Bring lunch and a full tank of gas;** carpooling is strongly recommended due to limited parking on the narrow roads. **IMPORTANT:** Do not expect to use the restrooms at the Paicines Store, as their use is limited to paying customers (we encourage patronage of local businesses).



# SCVAS Events Calendar:

**Tues. 11/8**  
**ELECTION DAY**  
**Don't Forget to VOTE!**



**Wed. 11/2 & 12/7, 7:30-9PM**  
**The Bay Area Bird Photographers Meeting** - Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center - East Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto  
**Topics TBA**

**Sat. 11/5, 8AM-3:30PM**  
**Creeks and Watershed Conference**  
**"Healthy Creeks/Vibrant Bay"**  
2025 Stierlin Ct, Bldg B, Mtn View  
For details and to register, go to [www.sccreeks.org](http://www.sccreeks.org)

**Tues. 11/8 & 12/13, 9:30AM**  
**Eve Case Bird Discussion Group**  
- meets at the home of Pat Dubois, 17150 Buena Vista Ave., Los Gatos (408) 395-4264  
Topic 11/8: Pheasants  
Topic 12/13: Chickens

**Mon. 11/7, 2:30-7PM**  
(Alternate Date: 11/11)  
**Fundraiser Mailing Party**  
McClellan Ranch Park  
Contact us at 408-252-3740 to find out how you can help.

**Fri. 12/2, 6:30-8:30PM**  
Holiday Open House Preview Party  
Music, art, light refreshments, and maybe even a special feathered guest!

**Sat. 12/3, 10-2 PM**  
Holiday Open House  
McClellan Ranch Park  
See Page 9

**Christmas Bird Counts (CBC's)**  
**Need your Help!!**  
See page 10 or go to our website ([www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org)) for more details:

**Sun. 12/18**  
**San Jose CBC**  
**Mon. 12/19**  
**Palo Alto CBC**

**Fri. 12/30**  
**Calero-**  
**Morgan Hill**  
**CBC**

**Mon. 1/2**  
**Mt. Hamilton**  
**CBC**



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# Volunteer Ventures

by Toby Goldberg  
Programs Coordinator

The fall is a particularly busy time of year for us here at SCVAS. By the time you read this, we'll have completed Wildlife Education Day, many many school programs, stood up to protect local habitats and wildlife throughout the county (and beyond), attended countless outreach events, and so much more.

Given all of these accomplishments, we're always asked "How does such a small (only 4 full-time staff!) organization accomplish so much?" And the answer is always the same - we simply have amazing volunteers! With dedicated and passionate volunteers involved in our education programs, conservation programs, office projects, youth programs, and advocacy needs, SCVAS volunteers supply more than 3000 hours every year to our mission - that's more than a full time job!! And that's pretty astounding, by any account.

If you've thought about getting involved (e.g. the Christmas Bird Counts are almost here - and can always use more volunteers! See page 10 for details...), or would like to learn more about how our organization could use YOUR talents and skills, check us out online at [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org) - click on "Volunteer" - contact me at 408-252-3740 or [programs@scvas.org](mailto:programs@scvas.org).

I'd love to chat with you!

## The Cavity Nesters Recovery Program's 15th Season

In any program, there are good years, and then there are not-so-good years. Sadly, the 2011 breeding season seems to have been the latter for many of our cavity nesting species.

With the causes still a bit of a mystery (though we strongly suspect that an unusually cold and wet spring and summer had a large influence), many of our monitors reported higher than normal incidents of nestling mortality. There's nothing fun about having a nest fail for any reason, but having low survival in nestlings - when they're so close to a successful end! - seems to be that much more difficult.

Thus, we express an extra special dose of gratitude to all of those monitors who persevered in the face of frustration and sadness. We know that the birds needed them that much more this year!

After 15 nesting seasons, SCVAS is proud of our record in helping local cavity nesting species, and encourage anyone interested in making a difference in local bird species populations to consider helping out with this vitally important program. The more monitors we have, the more we can help.

For detailed results, go online to [www.scvas.org/cnprp](http://www.scvas.org/cnprp).



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# Palo Alto Measure E:

## Please Tell Your Friends to **VOTE NO**

by Shani Kleinhaus, Environmental Advocate

In the past few weeks, we have studied the promises of Measure E in Palo Alto – a citizens' initiative to "undedicate" (equivalent to rezoning) 10 acres of Byxbee Park for the purpose of building a compost facility. Our analysis raised numerous red flags. Our Board of Directors voted unanimously to oppose Measure E. We provided a brief to the Committee for Green Foothills Board and their Board voted unanimously to oppose Measure E. Here are the top reasons why:

1. Parkland is not needed to achieve the energy and financial benefits that the measure advertises, which can be accomplished with upgrading and modernization of existing non-park facilities. Palo Alto was already planning for such improvements, independent of this initiative.

2. Undedication of parkland should be the last resort – not the first step – in exploring solutions for responsible waste management. Parklands are the most valuable and vulnerable lands anywhere, and converting open space by the Bay to industrial use should not be taken lightly. The proposed site is not only adjacent to our Baylands, it also provides an important wildlife corridor and is used by raptors and other wildlife for foraging.

3. Measure E postpones discovery and analysis of adverse environmental impacts on our health, our quality of life, and our resources. This is how things worked before we had environmental laws to protect us. We should not go back to those times.

4. Postponing environmental review until after the vote eliminated review of alternative sites and technologies. Better technologies exist, and parkland is not needed to implement them.

5. To build on the site, a mountain of trash would have to be excavated and redeposited on parkland or sent to a landfill at huge economic and environmental costs. In addition, proponents are proposing an outdoor compost facility for partially processed sludge, and food and yard waste. In all likelihood, both efforts would have extremely unpleasant (and smelly) environmental impacts far beyond the 10-acre site.

6. The undedication of 10 acres is not reversible. Proponents argue that if feasible technology were not found, then the land would revert to parkland. But there is no guarantee, and Palo Alto's Mayor, Sid Espinosa, said: "once parkland is lost it is lost forever." Freeing parkland in Palo Alto for development sets a dangerous precedent – it is not surprising that real estate developers invested thousands of dollars in Measure E.

7. A project of this magnitude (the Feasibility Study shows risks in the \$200M range over 20 years) diverts focus away from all other issues that a city of this size and constituency must contend with.

8. Measure E has caused a rift in the environmental community in Palo Alto, dividing people who all want the same thing: a responsible, cost effective solution to the City's organic waste. If Measure E is approved by voters, this wound will continue to fester and will delay both park development and responsible waste management for a long time.

For more information, please read <http://paloalto.patch.com/articles/audubon-measure-e-is-unnecessary-risky-and-misleading>. Or contact [shani@scvas.org](mailto:shani@scvas.org) for an in-depth analysis.

# Adult Education Classes & Workshops

The following classes 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](http://www.scvas.org).

## Audubon Classes:

### Bay Area Birds with Eddie Bartley

Join a fun and enthusiastic group in an introduction to many of the amazing birds that inhabit the San Francisco Bay Area and discover the local habitats where they can be found. Presentations include colorful bird imagery, info on optics, ID techniques, physiology, guides, and a little taxonomy. We'll have an opportunity to see resident and winter birds making a living. This class is suitable for beginning and intermediate level bird enthusiasts.

**Dates:** Class: Wed.'s 11/2, 11/9, 11/16; 7-9PM. Field Trip: Sun.'s 11/6 9AM-12PM; 11/13 1-4PM; 11/20 9AM-12PM.

**Locations:** Class: McClellan Ranch Park. Field Trips: TBD.

**Fee:** \$90 members \$125 non-members.

**Note:** Please plan to carpool for the field trips. Steady rains postpones field trips.



American Avocets  
©Tom Grey

### Bird Photography in the Field with Ashok Khosla, Tom Grey, and Bill Walker

If you love birds and want to capture those kodak moments, join a team of experienced bird photographers and get the personalized coaching you need to take better pictures of your birding experiences. Curious about places to go for bird photography? Trying to decide what gear to buy? Then join us and learn how to improve the drama of your photos and bring home more keepers. The class has three parts: an evening class to discuss bird photography techniques, a morning session in the field, and an afternoon session at McClellan Ranch dedicated to post-processing skills using Lightroom and/or Photoshop CS5. All levels of photographic skills are welcome to join, as are digiscopers.



Barn Swallow  
©Tom Grey

**Dates:** Class (Orientation): Fri. 11/4; 7PM (refreshments at 6:30PM); Field Trip: Sat. 11/5; Time TBD. **Locations:** Class: McClellan Ranch Park. Field Trip: TBD (most likely Shoreline Park in Mountain View or Radio Road Ponds in Redwood City), with post-field trip wrap-up at McClellan Ranch Park. **Fee:** \$50 members; \$75 non-members. **Class size limited to 15. There are only a few spaces left, so don't wait!**

## Audubon Field Workshops:

### Costa Rica 2012 – Quintessential Tropical Birding with Carlos Gomez, Bob Hirt, and Bob Power February 21 – March 3, 2012

Costa Rica, with its temperate climate and environment that is rich in fruits and flowers, is blessed with an avian population that is diverse, colorful, and prolific. Nearly 890 species of birds can be found here, ranging from Scarlet Macaws to Resplendent Quetzals. While we cannot hope to see 800 species in one trip, we can hope to see 250 to 300 species under the capable leadership of Carlos Gomez, arguably Costa Rica's finest trip leader. From national parks and national wildlife refuges to high mountain ecosystems and tropical forests, we'll be searching for endemic and exotic birds, such as the White-throated Magpie Jay, Black-hooded Antshrike, Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher, Scarlet Macaw, Sunbittern, Spectacled Owl, Keel-billed Toucan and the ultimate Costa Rica target bird, the Resplendent Quetzal. This 12-day tour will take us from San Jose, Costa Rica to the central Pacific, the Talamanca highlands, and the Caribbean lowlands, immersing ourselves in the country's finest birding destinations along the way.

**Fees:** \$2950/person, double-occupancy. \$500 single supplement. Fees do not include airfare, bar bills, incidentals. Fees do include all park entrance fees, tips for guides and drivers, and a tax deductible donation to SCVAS. **Deposit:** \$500 required by Dec 1st, 2011 to hold space. **8 participant minimum, 12 participant maximum.**

### Southeastern Arizona with Bob Power and David Wimpfheimer

#### May 11 – 20, 2012

Madera and Cave Creek Canyons, the Huachuca and Chiricahua mountains, Patagonia Roadside Rest area, and enough specialty birds to satisfy the most avid birders; in short, one of the top birding destinations in North America. We will immerse ourselves in the mountains, canyons, and desert lowlands as southeastern Arizona comes alive with the songs and calls of birds starting the nesting cycle. Join us to seek all of the area's specialty birds from Elegant Trogon to Red-faced Warbler, on the birding trip of a lifetime!

**Fees:** \$1950/person, double-occupancy. \$450 single supplement. **Deposit:** \$300 by Dec 31st to hold space. **10 participant minimum, 12 participant maximum.**



A Vermillion Flycatcher (left) and a Gilded Flicker (right) were just two of the many amazing species seen during the Southeastern Arizona trip in 2011!  
Photos by Bob Power

# Field Notes

(Aug - Sept 2011)

By Bill Bousman

## Ducks through Falcons

Late summer **Blue-winged Teal** included one on the Sunnyvale WPCP oxidation ponds on 16 Sep (MMR) and another in the Palo Alto FCB on 28 Sep (GBa). **Lesser Scaup** again nested at the Sunnyvale WPCP this year. A female with five downy young and a second female with a fledged juvenile were seen in the west re-circ channel on 31 Aug (WGB). Summering **Common Goldeneyes** were found again at the Ogier Avenue ponds with one or two birds there 2-24 Sep (RWR, FV, PDU, MMR et al.). **Western** and **Clark's Grebes** were observed nesting again at Calaveras Reservoir on 29 Sep (MMR et al.). **Brown Pelicans** are occasionally found inland. Two juveniles were at Almaden Lake on 26 Jul and these numbers increased through the period to at least five juveniles on 29 Sep (both JPa). More surprising was one on Grant Lake in the Diablo Range on 16 Aug (PDU). This may be a first record for the interior of that range. A juvenile **Brandt's Cormorant** was found in Pond A16 28 Aug-4 Sep (SCT, v.ob.). Possibly the same juvenile was seen in the Palo Alto Baylands on 9 Sep (TGr). Another Brandt's was in Pond A10 in Alviso on 25 Sep (JTh, SCT). A **Pelagic Cormorant** was also seen on the A9/A10 levee on 25 Sep (JTh, SCT). An **American Bittern** on the Ogier Avenue ponds on 2 Sep (RWR, FV) may be a breeding bird. A juvenile **White-faced Ibis** was in Pond A16 in Alviso 28 Aug-4 Sep (MJM, RGJ, SCT, v.ob). Three were seen in the Coyote Creek Field Station (CCFS) waterbird pond on 3 Sep (MDo). Single birds were seen in the Palo Alto FCB on 24 Sep (PDU) and Crittenden Marsh on 28 Sep (FV). A light-morph **Swainson's Hawk** was seen over the Guadalupe River in San Jose on 14 Sep (WGB). The first **Merlin** returned on 22 Sep (JPa), it was seen at the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) ponds. **Prairie Falcons** included one at the CCFS waterbird pond on 27 Aug (WGB) and another along Felter Road on 1 Sep (PDU).

## Shorebirds

A survey of **Snowy Plovers** on 6 Aug (MMR, v.ob.) found 44 birds in New Chicago Marsh including one on a nest and a precocial young. It appears that these birds and others formed a nocturnal roost on a playa east of the Alviso Marina CP by 4 Aug (FV, v.ob.) and a high count of 103 was obtained on 17 Sep (MMR et al.). Most birds leave the roost during the day and many feed in Pond A12 (v.ob.). Two migrant **Solitary Sandpipers** were seen during the period, one in Pond A3W on 25 Aug (RWR, FV), and the other at Lake Ranch Reservoir on 4 Sep (JPa). A **Wanderling Tattler** was found on closed refuge ponds on 28 Aug (MJM, RGJ). The fall passage of **Lesser**

*A good fall for rare migrants was topped by a Painted Bunting and an Orchard Oriole on the last day of September*

**Yellowlegs** was down. The only significant concentration was at the CCFS waterbird pond 16 Aug-17 Sep with four to 12 birds (SCR, v.ob.) The peak count was on 2 Sep (RCP). A **Black Turnstone** was seen at Charleston Slough on 4 Sep (JVM, MB). **Red Knots** have become more reliable at the Stevens Creek mouth in recent years. One to three birds were seen there 20-25 Aug (SCT, v.ob.). Ten birds were found on closed refuge ponds on 28 Aug (MJM, RGJ). A juvenile **Sanderling** was the first return at Pond A12 on 10 Sep (JTh). Only two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found, both juveniles, one on Pond A12 on 3 Aug (WGB) and the other in New Chicago Marsh on 13 Aug (SCR). After a few drought years, we had a moderately good passage of **Baird's Sandpipers** in New Chicago Marsh. Five juveniles were found there on 6 Aug (SCR, m.ob.) and a few were found there through 27 Aug. We have not missed Pectoral Sandpipers in September since 1980, but none were found this year. Missing so many of our rarer Calidrids, it was nice to have two **Ruffs** on 6 Aug, a basic adult male in the Mountain View Forebay (SCR) and an

adult female in the New Chicago Marsh (MJM). Unhappily, neither was seen again. The peak count of **Wilson's Phalaropes** was 459 at the Sunnyvale WPCP oxidation ponds on 6 Aug (WGB), a low count. The tally of **Red-necked Phalaropes** was 3738 at the oxidation ponds on 31 Aug (WGB). The most surprising Red-necks were the 30+ birds seen in flight near dawn at Monte Bello OSP on 1 Sep (GHa).

## Terns through Nuthatches

The last of the staging **Least Terns** were the 6-11 birds on Pond A10 and A11 in Alviso 3-6 Aug (WGB, MDo, KDo). Two additional birds were seen on Pond A17 on 16 Aug (WGB). It has been a poor passage year for **Black Terns** with a single bird at the Sunnyvale WPCP and nearby Pond A4 on 13-14 Aug (GHa, SCT). A **Common Tern** was seen on Pond A16 on 19 Aug (DPe). A juvenile bird was found on Pond A4 in Sunnyvale 16-18 Sep (MMR, v.ob.). It has been a good fall for **Elegant Terns** with birds found weekly in various ponds along the Bay. High counts were of eight birds on Pond A2E on 13 Sep (GBa) and the same number on Pond A4 the next day (RWR). A juvenile **Common Murre** beached on a closed refuge pond on 29 Sep (NT, SCR) and was captured for rehab. During the **Vaux's Swift** passage, the high count along the bay was of 53 near Pond A4 on 27 Aug (WGB) and 22 over the SCVWD ponds on 15 Sep (JPa). At least 20 migrant **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** were seen at feeders in Morgan Hill 21 Aug-24 Sep (SCR). Less expected was an adult female **Costa's Hummingbird** at the same feeders 17-24 Sep (SCR). The first fall passage **Willow Flycatcher** was seen at Monte Bello OSP on 12 Aug (GHa). Through the remainder of the period there were about 18 more sightings of passage birds, about typical. A **Least Flycatcher** was banded at CCFS on 3 Sep (SFBBO), the first since 2006.



*Least Tern  
by Tom Grey*

## Field Notes *cont'd*

Single migrant **Purple Martins** included one over Monte Bello OSP on 26 Aug (GHa) and the other at the Sunnyvale WPCP on 14 Sep (WGB). A lowland **Red-breasted Nuthatch** heard near a San Jose yard on 17 Aug (MJM) continued the summer pattern of casual sightings of this montane species.

### Warblers through Siskins

A **Tennessee Warbler** was seen at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 16 Sep (PKe et al.) and remained through 18 Sep (v.ob.). A **Nashville Warbler** was found at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 16 Sep (MMR, MJM) and another bird was at the Sunnyvale WPCP on 30 Sep (PDU). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was seen at Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 23 Sep (PKe, RKe, SCT, DWe). The Sunnyvale Baylands Park came through with another eastern vagrant 14-15 Sep, a female or immature **American Redstart** (PKe, RKe, et al.). A **Northern Waterthrush** found along Stevens Creek above Crittenden Lane on 30 Sep (MMR) is likely a bird that will winter there and at the Charleston Road marsh. A female or immature **MacGillivray's Warbler** was in a Morgan Hill yard 30 Aug-2 Sep (SCR). Another migrant was along the Guadalupe River below Trimble Road on 18 Sep (SCR). A female/immature in the demonstration garden at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 30 Sep (PKe, FV, SCT) may be a first for that migrant warbler hot spot. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was seen along the Guadalupe River Trail near the fish ladder above Coleman Road 25-26

Sep (JPa). A **Vesper Sparrow** near the Mountain View Forebay on 25 Sep (SCT) was a good find. Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** at Monte Bello OSP on 2 and 26 Sep (GHa) were thought to be local dispersants. A juvenile **Painted Bunting** was found along Stevens Creek above Crittenden Lane on 30 Sep (MMR) and was refound and photographed shortly thereafter (SCR). The only prior record was a juvenile banded along Coyote Creek in 2000. A **Bobolink** was seen overhead in Alviso on 17 Sep (MMR et al.), a repeat of last year where a single bird was overhead at the same spot. A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found along Adobe Creek on 28 Aug (JVM, MB). Multiple birds were seen at the Sunnyvale WPCP 13 Sep through the end of the period (PDU, m.ob.), at least five were counted on 13 Sep (WGB). Eleven **Great-tailed Grackles** were found at Lake Cunningham on 19 Aug (JPa) and included adults feeding young. It seems likely they nested nearby, possible in Thompson or Silver creeks. Five birds were in this area in late July as well. A female was seen along the Guadalupe River below the SCVWD pond 29 Aug (JPa, AV). Another bird was in Mallard Slough in Alviso the same day (PDU). A female/immature **Orchard Oriole** was found along Stevens Creek near La Avenida during the search for the Painted Bunting on 30 Sep (SCR, MMR). Also a second county record, the first was a male seen in 2008. A scattering of **Pine Siskins** included singles at Monte Bello OSP on 26 Aug and 2 Sep (GHa) and one at a San Jose feeder on 26 Sep (ER).



*Orchard Oriole*  
by Pete LaTourrette

Observers: Gordon Barrett (GBa), Mary Bibb (MB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Kelly Dodder (KDo), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Pete Duntun (PDU), Tom Grey (TGr), Garth Harwood (GHa), Richard Jeffers (RGJ), Roland Kenner (RKe), Pat Kenny (PKe), Mike Mammoser (MJM), John V. Moore (JVM), Janna Pauser (JPa), Don Pendleton (DPe), Bob Power (RCP), Bob Reiling (RWR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Edward Rooks (ER), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBO), Jim Thomas (JTh), Nellie Thorngate (NT), Steve Tracey (SCT), Frank Vanslager (FV), Ann Verdi (AV), and Dave Weber (DWe).

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

### Outside Events of Interest:

SCVAS always loves to support fun, educational and bird-related activities wherever they are! Here are a few that we've learned about, and that we think our members might enjoy:

#### Swan Tours in Yuba County

CA Dept. Fish & Game

Nov-Jan; 9:30AM & 1:00PM

Go to <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/regions/2/SwanTours/> for details and to register

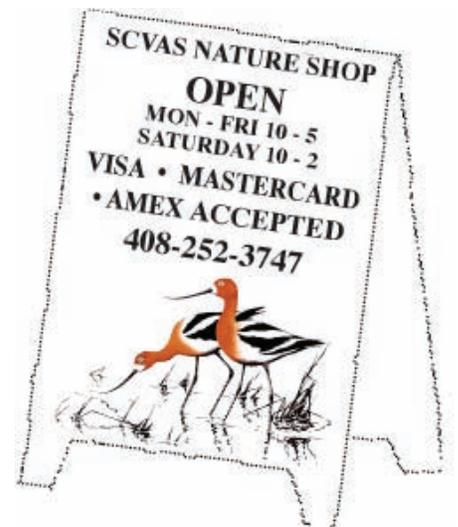
#### 15th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium

Thur-Sun, Nov 17-20

Stockton Hilton Hotel, Stockton CA

Join birders from around the state (and the world!) for engaging programs and bird-filled trips.

Go to <http://cvbs.org/> for details and to register



The SCVAS Nature Shop is a GREAT place for all your holiday shopping! See page 9 for details about our special Holiday Open House!

## 2011 Friends of SCVAS

Gifts received between August 1st and Sept. 30th, 2011

### \$1,000-\$1,500:

Keith Anderson, Robert and Deborah Hirt, Peter and Suzanne LaTourrette, David McIntyre and Antoinette Konski

### \$500-\$999:

Kristine Kelly and Arthur Gleckler, Steve Patt and Debi Jamison

### \$250-\$499:

Gary and Elisabeth Nielsen, Linda Brownrigg, John and Georgiana Flaherty, Winfield and Barbara Foster, Jan Hintermeister, John and Freddy Howell, Mary Lorey, Ethel Meece, George and Lilo Miller, John Wills, Charles Wilson

### \$100-\$249:

Donna Aronson, William and Karen Barrett, Peter and Patricia Biocini, Constance Bowencamp, Phyllis Browning, Katie Chilton, Constance Crawford, Jimmie Dawson, Monica Donovan and James Kern, Kathleen Dunlap, Judy Enos, Kimberly Farrell, Mary Florsheim, Marilyn Fowler, Richard and Diane Horn, Jeffrey and Marcia Keimer, Michael and Carolyn Kulakofsky, Anadel Law, Phil and Joan Leighton, John and Clysta McLemore, Lisa Miller, Sandy Moore, Everett Palmer, Virginia Rhodas, Jay and Barbara Salzman, Melanie Sloane, Kendric and Marion Smith, Ken Smith, Ulf Stauber, Ruth Troetschler, Barbara Tyler, Ted and Jane Wassam, Riley and Virginia Willcox

### \$60-\$99:

Gretchen Bell, Barbara Borthwick, Ralph and Marion Bridge, Lea Crisp, Denise Doetsch, Mary Fullerton, Victorine Grice, Charles and Linda Hignite, Pamela King, Petra Kinsman, Martha Kudlacik, Karen Lemes, Steven Lovett and Abby King, Barbara Magie, Dean Manley, Ken and Patsy McKay, Leon and Janna Pauser, Annemarie Rosengreen, Alice Smith, Anne Templeton, Joan Zuckerman

### Up to \$59:

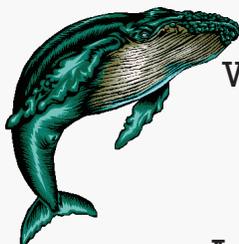
Jason Amsel, Nancy Arbuckle, Paul and Joan Armer, Elizabeth Arms, Donald and Jean Arndt, Judy Atterholt and Chris Petti, William and Jean Barrett, Galli Basson, Harriet Benson, Andrew Black, Joan Bose, Gail Bower, Frank and Joan Brauch, Richard and Marjorie Brody, Cathy Brown, Geraldine Brown, James Carrington, J. Matthew Coale, Jack and Jeannie Cole, Pierre-Yves Couteau, Marilu Cuesta Flores, Leonard Doberne and Cheryl Tau, John Erb, Marilyn Fowler, John Fowler, George and Susanne Francis, Chihping Fu, Anne Geiger, Robert Goldman, Paul and Carole Goldstein, Morey Goldstein, Janet Hanson, Gary Harris, John and Nancy Hewitt, Michael Hillman, Khoi Huynh, Subrahmanya Jandhyala, Mary Jourdan, John Kahle, Jerry and Ginny Kaminski, Herbert Kanner, Kelly Kendrick, Lena Kolesnikova, Janet Lafler, Karl Leinberger, David and Doreen Leith, Siming Li, Tor Lund, Chandrashekhar Mahatme, May Manabe, Wayne and Georgina Marion, Anita Marlin, Karen McCreddin, Richard McElroy, Patricia McQuade, Jim and Donna Meyer, Jennifer Moylan, Art and Ann Muto, Barbara Newcomer, Dr. and Mrs. Floyd Okada, Mike Olavarri, James Ottenheimer, Enid Pearson, Patricia Prickett, Dick and Joan Raiter, Tom Reeves, Emily Renzel, Edward Riccio, Gail Richardson, Mary Ann Roa, Gary Rose, Annemarie Rosengreen, Alex Ross, Marguerite Ryan, Grace Sain, Mary Schrader, Laverne Shaffer, Gertrude Shearer, Hoy Shih, Murray and Bernice Siegel, Sidney Simon, Indranil Sircar, Lynne Smart, David Struthers, Margo Tenold, Bill and Sandy Thurmon, Leslie Train, Samson Tu, Ann Verdi, Gretchen Vogel, Mrs. Sheryl Walters

## Winter 2012 - Young Audubon Adventures Return!

Our winter adventures are always a blast for children of all ages - don't miss out on either of these fun and exciting family activities!

*Space is limited for each activity, so be sure to sign-up early!*

\*More details are available on our website, [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org), and in the Jan/Feb issue of the Avocet.



Winter Whale Watching  
in Monterey Bay

MLK Weekend\*

Monday, January 16th

Ages: 3-years-old and up



Elephant Seal Walks

at Año Nuevo State Park

President's Day Weekend

Monday, February 20th

Ages: 7-years-old and up



Scholarships available for families in need!



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# *Holiday Open House!*

*Saturday, December 3rd;*

*10:00 AM until 2:00 PM*

- Enjoy Holiday refreshments and a special one day discount.*
- Browse through our books, jewelry, ornaments, and other bird related gift items.*
- Enjoy a special display of paintings and photography by local artists.*
- Visit with Staff*
- Live bird presentation!*
- Pick up your special 2012 Calendars (see below)*

*All proceeds go to our education and conservation programs*

*For more details, please contact Susan at (408) 252-3747  
at the SCVAS Office and Nature Shop  
22221 McClellan Road • Cupertino, CA*

## **2012 Calendars Celebrate Education and Conservation**

### 2012 California Wildlife Poster Contest Winners

Each year SCVAS sponsors a Wildlife Poster contest for students from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Each submission must contain California wildlife in native habitat and this beautiful calendar celebrates our panel's top picks! Proceeds from the sale of this calendar go to our Education programs.



Two of the 1st Place winners highlighted in the 2012 Calendar.  
Photos taken by Ashok Khosla; poster images used by permission

### 2012 Panoche Valley

We wanted to share the beauty of both the Panoche Valley landscape as well as the birds who make their homes there. Photographs have been generously donated from some of the bay area's finest photographers. Proceeds from this calendar go to our Panoche Valley legal fund.



Prairie Falcon (left) photo by Ken Phenicie, Jr.  
Panoche Valley (right) photo by Julio Mulero

Pre-order either calendar by calling Susan at 408-252-3747, and pick up your calendar during one of our Open House events in December.

# The Christmas Bird Counts are Almost Here!

Join us for another year of fun, adventure, and excitement as we help add to the body of bird research and knowledge throughout the country! Contact the compiler of the region you are interested in (see below). Participants are asked to provide \$5 to help cover the charge of the national CBC publication.

## SAN JOSE Region

Yes, it is almost that time of year again ... time to celebrate the existence of all things winged. The San Jose Christmas Bird Count will be held this year on Sunday, December 18th. Birders of all experience levels are welcome and needed. Bird identification skills are great but other skills are important too, such as:

1) spotter, able to point and say "Bird!", and

2) tally-man, able to make small marks on increasingly grubby bits of paper.

We are blessed with habitats to suit anyone's fancy: shoreline, oak woodlands, lake-side, or riparian, we can accommodate you. So, come have fun and contribute to an important, on-going biological census.

The countdown dinner will review all birds seen for the day. The Leininger Center in Kelley Park is the host location. There is a \$5 charge to cover the cost of the national CBC result publication. If you are interested in participating in the count, please contact Kirsten Holmquist before December 10 at 408.747.0988 or via email at [kirsten.holmquist@comcast.net](mailto:kirsten.holmquist@comcast.net).

\*\*\*\*\*

## PALO ALTO Region

The Palo Alto Christmas Bird Count will be held on Monday, December 19. If

you are one of the loyal, returning counters, welcome back! But if you are new to birding and bird counts, here is a chance to make new friends and contribute to an important annual census of our local bird population. Don't worry about being able to identify every bird you see, as there will be someone on each team who can do that. Our count covers an area centered in Palo Alto then extends from the bay to Skyline Drive, and is split fairly evenly between Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. For more information or to sign up, contact Jack Cole at [Snoyowl@yahoo.com](mailto:Snoyowl@yahoo.com) or 408-996-0434.

Christmas bird counts are for everyone, the skilled and the novice. If you have participated in this count in the past, you may wish to contact your region coordinator and confirm your availability and territory. If you are new to the area or the count, please contact the count coordinator Jack Cole at 408-996-0434 or [SNOYOWL@YAHOO.COM](mailto:SNOYOWL@YAHOO.COM), and we will find a spot suitable to your skill level, time commitment and our coverage needs. Join the count - make your day!

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## CALERO-MORGAN HILL Region

The Calero-Morgan Hill CBC will be held on Friday, December 30. This inland count is centered in mid-south Santa Clara County. The count circle includes the Diablo Range foothills in the east to

portions of the Santa Cruz Mountains in the west with valleys, parks, riparian corridors, and reservoirs in between the two ranges. Some areas of interest include a riparian stretch of Coyote Creek (including Ogier Ponds), Almaden Lake Park, Santa Clara County Water District Headquarters, Santa Teresa County Park, Quicksilver County Park, Mount Umunhum, Edenvale Garden Park, Guadalupe Oak Grove Park, Coyote Valley, and inland reservoirs including Almaden, Calero, Chesbro, and a portion of Anderson Reservoir. While the purpose of the CBC is to census our resident and wintering birds, some special birds seen on our previous counts have included Snow Goose, Short-eared Owl, Greater Roadrunner, Rufous Hummingbird, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and American Redstart. If you're interested in joining us on this annual citizen-science adventure, please contact me by email [wodu10@aol.com](mailto:wodu10@aol.com) or by phone 408-266-5108.

\*\*\*\*\*

## MT. HAMILTON Region

Mark your calendars for January 2nd! We hope to have a great count again through the Mt. Hamilton and San Antonio Valley area. Count leaders are especially needed. Contact Bob Hirt - 408-821-2732 (cell) - as soon as possible to participate.

## Humanely-Sourced Feathers Wanted!

We've all seen the trends - feathers in hair accessories, jewelry, even backpack decorations! But few people know how those feathers are harvested.

**Art For The Birds** is an organization trying to change the emphasis of this latest fashion-craze by partnering with organizations that work to rehabilitate and protect birds, and to support public education and outreach about the situation of birds in the wild and in captivity.

**Art For The Birds** receives donated, free-molt feathers from

the organizations with which they partner, makes jewelry using these donated feathers, and then sells it to the public as an alternative to the inhumane feathers currently used in the fashion industry (samples of their work can be seen at [www.facebook.com/artforthebirds](http://www.facebook.com/artforthebirds)). 25% of net sales are then donated back to the respective partner organizations.

If you or someone you know has pet birds, and are able to collect clean, attractive *molted* feathers, please consider donating the feathers!

Feathers can be sent to:

**Art For The Birds**

7480 Heatherwood Dr.  
Cupertino, CA 95014  
408-499-5867

Please indicate that you are a member of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and a portion of the proceeds from jewelry sold from these feathers will be donated back to SCVAS.



**SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
**Comparative Statements of Income, and Balance Sheet**  
**For the Years Ended May 31, 2010 and 2011**

	5/31/10	5/31/11
<b>STATEMENTS OF INCOME:</b>		
Revenue: Includes Nature Shop Net Sales, Investment Income and Program Revenues	\$ 40,063	\$ 79,877
Realized and Unrealized Capital Gains and Losses	\$ 121,006	\$ 141,337
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 161,069</b>	<b>\$ 221,214</b>
Support: Gifts and Memorials, Bequests, Grants and Other Program Support	\$ 241,642	\$ 242,727
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>\$ 402,712</b>	<b>\$ 463,941</b>
Expenses:		
Program Expenses	\$ 225,543	\$ 301,974
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 21,962	\$ 24,269
General and Administrative Expenses	\$ 58,402	\$ 65,492
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 305,907</b>	<b>\$ 391,735</b>
<b><u>NET INCOME LESS EXPENSES</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 96,804</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 72,206</u></b>
<b>BALANCE SHEETS:</b>		
ASSETS: Money Market Funds and Investments (at Market)	\$ 1,031,035	\$ 1,110,036
Fixed Assets, Inventory and Other Assets	\$ 96,164	\$ 81,361
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,127,199</b>	<b>\$ 1,191,397</b>
LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS; Liabilities - Accounts Payable	\$ 11,873	\$ 3,894
Surplus:		
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 1,018,522	\$ 1,115,326
New Income (Loss), Current Year	\$ 96,804	\$ 72,177
<b>Balance, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 1,115,326</b>	<b>\$ 1,187,503</b>
<b><u>Total Liabilities and Surplus</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,127,199</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,191,397</u></b>
	5/31/10	5/31/11

**Financial Report**

As a service to our membership, the SCVAS Board of Directors presents this summary of our organization's financial position as of the conclusion of the fiscal year. Our balance sheet continues to reflect a strong financial position. Our surplus acts as a flexible fund in that most of it is designated by the Board of Directors to meet long-term needs, and the earnings generated from the investment of the surplus are used to pay for current operating expenses. If you have any questions or wish a copy of the financial report, please contact the SCVAS office.

## SCVAS' WINTER WISH-LIST

Getting ready to update your home entertainment system? Converting to an all digital platform? Have you inherited your kids'/roommates'/friends' DVD player? Maybe you're just looking to clean out some space in the living room. Your spare equipment could be just what the SCVAS office needs!



We don't want to lose access to any of our archival/video resources, but our viewing equipment has finally reached the end of its lifespan. We are therefore looking for a **DVD player** and/or **VCR** in good working condition (our VCR eats tapes...).

If you have one - or both - to spare, and want to make sure your extra equipment goes to a good home, please consider donating it to SCVAS.

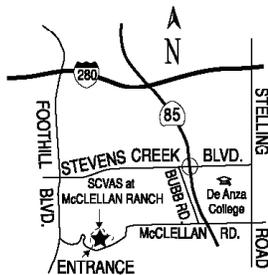
*Please contact us at 408-252-3747 or [scvas@scvas.org](mailto:scvas@scvas.org) for more information or to make a donation. In-kind donations are tax deductible.*



Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society  
 22221 McClellan Road  
 Cupertino, CA 95014

Phone: 408-252-3747  
 Fax: 408-252-2850  
 E-mail: [scvas@scvas.org](mailto:scvas@scvas.org)  
[www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org)

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## Go Paperless!

Sign up to receive your newsletter via email - get your issues faster, help save natural resources and reduce waste!



Contact the SCVAS office at 408-252-3747 or [scvas@scvas.org](mailto:scvas@scvas.org) to start your paper-free membership today!

### OFFICERS

**President**  
Ashok Khosla  
**Vice President**  
Bob Hirt

**Treasurer**  
Peter LaTourrette  
**Secretary**  
Joan Leighton

### DIRECTORS

Dotty Calabrese	'11 - '14
Debbie Thompson	'11 - '14
Tom Grey	'09 - '12
Julio Mulero	'11 - '14
Melanie O'Brien	'10 - '13
Vivek Khazode	'11 - '14

### STAFF

<b>Executive Director</b>	408/252-3748
Bob Power	<a href="mailto:bob@scvas.org">bob@scvas.org</a>
<b>Office Manager</b>	408/252-3747
Susan Bell	<a href="mailto:scvas@scvas.org">scvas@scvas.org</a>
<b>Programs Coordinator</b>	408/252-3740
Toby Goldberg	<a href="mailto:programs@scvas.org">programs@scvas.org</a>
<b>Environmental Advocate</b>	650/868-2114
Shani Kleinhaus	<a href="mailto:shani@scvas.org">shani@scvas.org</a>

<b>Office Fax</b>	408/252-2850
<b>Office E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:scvas@scvas.org">scvas@scvas.org</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.scvas.org">www.scvas.org</a>

### OFFICE HOURS

<b>Monday - Friday</b>	<b>10 AM - 5 PM</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10 AM - 2 PM</b>

**GENERAL MEETINGS** are held on the third Wednesday of each month except July, August and December and are open to the public.

**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**

**GIFTS:** SCVAS welcomes gifts, including those made in honor of or in memory of friends or relatives. Such gifts will be used at SCVAS' discretion for its programs and activities unless specified otherwise by the donor. Tax-deductible donations may be made in the form of a check made out to SCVAS and sent to our Cupertino address.

SCVAS is a private, non-profit corporation affiliated with the National Audubon Society

**Avocet Editor:** Toby Goldberg  
**Assistant Editor:** Ashley Johnson  
**Avocet Drawings:** Bonnie Bedford-White

**2011 Volume 58, Number 6**

Chapter Members in the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS) receive the SCVAS newsletter, *The Avocet*.

<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Song Sparrow (Student)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35 American Avocet (Individual)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 California Quail (Family)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Burrowing Owl
<input type="checkbox"/> \$250 White-tailed Kite	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Peregrine Falcon	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Golden Eagle	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Membership \$ _____ + Donation \$ _____ = Total Enclosed \$ _____			

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**C1ZC140Z**

Come by the office to pick up your free copy of *Birding at the Bottom of the Bay*, and our *Breeding Bird Atlas* (if joining at the Burrowing Owl level or above).

Send this information, and make all checks payable, to: SCVAS, 22221 McClellan Rd, Cupertino, CA 95014

Please note: As an organizational policy, SCVAS does not share member information with other organizations.