

THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

January-February 2014

A Simple Thank You

by Bob Power

SCVAS Executive Director

Nearly eight years ago I arrived at McClellan Ranch, bright eyed and ready for conservation, education, and birding adventures in whatever form they might take. In those eight years, there were many, many highlights and here are some of the clear winners; my takeaways.

- I saw good friends become really good Board members and experienced good Board members becoming really good friends.
- My students, who were the core of my existence for years, transferred their generosity of spirit and love of birds to generosity in giving and love of conservation.
- It's impossible to isolate one volunteer event as the pinnacle of volunteerism, but to see the same individuals give of their time and expertise over and over again, in the education arena, in the critical work of environmental oversight, and just for the joy of sharing the birding world with others, these are my role-models who I will not forget.



Bob enjoys leading a field seminar at Mono Lake

- The leaders, participant-fundraisers, and donors who have given so generously to our Birdathons have amazed me with their support.
- And lastly, our staff has worked tirelessly to ensure the Audubon name is connected clearly to quality education, thoughtful conservation advocacy, and service to the community.

Birding Adventures for all levels: check out our classes, workshops and seminars for 2014!

-Page 5

Regardless of your appearance on the list above or not, if you're reading this, you have supported our organization and made my job easier and made a difference in educating our local kids and protecting our local environment. Keep up the good work, continue to give early, often, and generously, and welcome Stephanie Ellis with open arms as you did to me. Thank you.



General Membership Meetings Cubberley Community Center, Rm H1

Palo Alto - Middlefield & Montrose Rds
Doors open 7:30PM; program 8:00PM

Wednesday, January 15th

“Living with Mountain Lions” with Zara McDonald

Exec. Director, Felidae Conservation Fund

Mountain Lions - also called Pumas and Cougars - are keystone predators and play a critical role in maintaining the health and biodiversity of our ecosystems. However, expansion of human populations is causing increasing encounters and conflicts between humans and Mountain Lions, and growing tensions in our local communities. Zara will discuss their ecology, history, and the challenges of sharing habitats with them.

Mountain Lion
©Felidae Fund

(Additional information and detailed directions available
at www.scvas.org or by calling the SCVAS office)



Wednesday, February 19th

“Mysterious Marbled Murrelets” with Portia Halbert California State Parks

Discover the elusive, endangered Marbled Murrelet, which lives most of its life at sea, but nests only in old-growth conifers. The story begins with how this mysterious bird was “re-discovered” following a winter storm at Big Basin Redwoods State Park in the early 1970s. Learn about marbled murrelet habitat, life cycle and the efforts underway to prevent its extinction in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Marbled Murrelet
©Peter LaTourrette

-
- ☞ Wildlife Education Day - Another Roaring Success!
— Page 4
 - ☞ A Yellow Rail Gives the Local Birding Community a Thrill!
— Field Notes, Page 6
 - ☞ Get ready for the Spring Birdathon!
— Pages 8
 - ☞ Join the Cavity Nesters Recovery Program and help local birds!
— Page 10
 - ☞ Winter Young Audubon Adventures - Service and Seals!
— Page 11

Jan - Feb '14 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

Saturday Jan. 4, 7:30 AM

County Chase

Half day. **Leader:** Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. **Highlights:** Get a head start on your County Year List with some vagrant chasing. **Notes:** 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:** From Hwy 237 in San Jose take Gold St. north to the end, bear left on Elizabeth St. and then right on Hope St. Meet outside the entrance to the Alviso Marina Parking Lot. **Notes:** Be prepared to carpool as parking may be limited at some sites. **RC**

Sunday Jan. 5, 8:00 AM

Los Capitancillos Ponds

Half day. **Leader:** Ann Verdi (408) 266-5108. **Directions:** If coming from Hwy 85, go south on Camden Ave. just past Blossom Hill Rd. Singletree Way is the next left turn-off near Beacon School. Park on the street; we will meet at the trail entrance located on the right just beyond the power plant. **Highlights:** We will bird ponds that are often filled with a wide variety of waterfowl and Gulls, a nearby creek for riparian birds as well as other areas closely associated with the ponds that attract birds. **RC**

Wednesday Jan. 8, 1:00 PM

Coyote Valley

Half day. **Leader:** Don Starks 408-266-2969. **Notes:** This is an afternoon trip. **Directions:** Take Hwy 101 south, exit right (west) onto Bailey Rd. Turn left on Hale/Santa Teresa Blvd. In .8 miles, turn right on west Laguna Ave. **Highlights:** Raptors. **RC**

Saturday Jan. 11, 8:30 AM

Alum Rock Park

Half day. **Leader:** Jim Johnson (408) 966-3506. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 or I-680 take McKee Rd. northeast toward the hills then left on Toyon Ave., right on Penitencia Creek Rd. and continue on into the park. Pass under the bridge and meet at the far end of the upper parking lot. **Difficulty Level:** This is a moderately strenuous 3-4 mile walk. **Highlights:** Resident breeding birds (possible Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, *The Avocet 2*

and Canyon Wren if we are lucky) early migrants, and lingering winter birds. **Notes:** Be prepared for some mud! Expect to pay an entrance fee. **LO, RC**

Sunday Jan. 12, 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. **Highlights:** 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. **Notes:** 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). FRS radios (Walkie-Talkies) set to channel 11 may prove useful on this trip.

Saturday Jan. 18, 8:00 AM

Charleston Slough

Half day. **Leader:** Steve Tracey (408) 966-3860. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 in Mt. View take San Antonio Rd. north to Terminal Way parking area. Meet at the entrance nearest San Antonio Rd. **Difficulty Level:** This trip is recommended for beginning birders but all are encouraged to attend. **Notes:** Bring your spotting scope and a friend.

Sunday Jan. 19, 8:15 AM

Arastradero OSP

Half day. **Leader:** Rich Page (408) 377-1092. **Directions:** From I-280 take Page Mill Rd. west; turn right on Arastradero Rd. and meet in the parking lot about ½ mile on the right. **Difficulty Level:** Moderate walking. **RC**

Saturday Jan. 25, 8:00 AM

Ogier Ponds

Half day. **Leader:** Kirsten Holmquist (408) 747-0988. **Directions:** 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 the road (meet at the gate if the entrance is locked). **RC**

Sunday Jan. 26, 9:00 AM

San Francisco's Southern Parks

Half Day. **Leader:** Alan Hopkins; home (415) 664-0983, cell (415) 794-0281. **Directions:** Meet at the parking lot to Heron's Head Park. From Hwy 280 or 101 take the Cesar Chavez St. exit east to Third St. Turn right onto Third St. after crossing the bridge turn left onto Cargo Way. Cargo Way ends at the Heron's Head Park parking lot. **Highlights:** This newly created park is a great place to look for shorebirds and bay waterfowl. Later we will then visit San Francisco's second largest park, McLaren Park, for land birds and a few dabbling ducks. **RC**

Saturday Feb. 1, 8:30 AM

Coyote Reservoir

Half day. **Leader:** Bob Reiling (408) 253-7527. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 in Gilroy take Leavesley Rd. east for 1.5 miles, turn left on New Ave then right on Roop Rd. Go left at the "T" intersection, then after 1.3 miles left again on Coyote Reservoir Rd. and on to the Lakeview Picnic area on the right. **LO, RC**

Sunday Feb. 2, 8:30 AM

Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline

Half day. **Leader:** Steve Tracey 408-966-3860. **Highlights:** At this East Bay location we will bird Arrowhead Marsh and vicinity. We'll look for rails (including Clapper), shorebirds, and ducks around the marsh as well as pipits and sparrows in some of the open fields and brushy areas. Depending on the activity level, we may also hop over to Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline. **Directions:** From I-880 in Oakland take the 98th Ave. exit toward Oakland International Airport. In 0.7 mi turn right onto Airport Access Rd. that then becomes Pardee Dr. after crossing Hegenberger Rd. Turn left onto Swan Way and in 0.2 mi turn right into the Park. We will meet in the parking lot at the end of the road.

Field Trips *continued*

Wednesday Feb. 5, 12:00 PM

City of Sunnyvale Landfill

One hour. **Leaders:** Freddy Howell and Allen Royer. No RSVP necessary, but contact the landfill coordinator, Silviana Ruiz, at (408) 730-7545 with questions. **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 Feb. 8, 8:00 AM

Shoreline Lake and Environs

Half day. **Leader:** Frank Vanslager (650) 961-1505. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 take Shoreline Blvd. and proceed north to its end (on past the golf course). Meet in the parking lot near the boathouse. **Highlights:** Expected species include ducks, gulls, some shorebirds, and a few riparian birds. **Difficulty Level:** A moderately long, but level, loop trip. **RC**

Sunday Feb. 9, 8:30 AM

Merced & San Luis Wildlife Refuges

Full day. **Leader:** Rich Page (408) 377-1092. **Directions:** Meet at the parking area near the first Observation Platform in Merced National Wildlife Refuge. From Hwy 101 in Gilroy take Hwy 152 east thru Los Banos, (no services past Los Banos, so check your gas gauge), approx. 20 miles then north 7 miles on Rte. 59 to Sandy Mush Rd., turn left approx. 8 miles to Merced Wildlife Refuge, on the left. Allow 2.5 hrs driving time from San Jose, more if it's foggy. **Highlights:** Raptors, ducks, geese, Great Horned Owls, Sandhill Cranes and White-faced Ibis possible. After the Merced Wildlife Refuge we will caravan to the San Luis Wildlife Refuge for lunch and more birding. **Difficulty Level:** This will primarily be a driving bird trip so FRS radios (Walkie-Talkies) set to channel 11 will prove to be of value. **Notes:** Dress in layers; bring lunch, liquids, and a full tank of gas. **RC**

Wednesday Feb. 12, 8:30 AM

Gilroy Water Treatment facility or Coyote Creek trail

Half day. **Leader:** Dennis Porter 408-205-0535. **Directions:** Exact location will depend on weather conditions. We will carpool from McDonalds on Cochrane

Road in Morgan Hill. Take Hwy 101 south; exit Cochrane Rd. and turn right. Turn left at first stop light and park at McDonald's. We'll carpool from here; do not meet at birding site. **Highlights:** If Gilroy ponds have water we'll drive the levee's for ducks and shorebirds. If not, we'll bird the Coyote Creek trail from park headquarters on Malaguerra. **LO, RC**

Saturday Feb. 15, 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 Lane. Meet at the gate at the end of the lane. **RC**

Sunday Feb. 16, 8:00 AM

Lake Cunningham Park

Half day. **Leader:** Pete Dunten (650) 210-6764. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 in San Jose go East on Tully to the entrance to Lake Cunningham Park, 0.3 miles past Capitol Expwy (Raging Waters). Turn left into the park and left again at the entrance booth. Meet in the Marina parking lot. **Notes:** There will be a \$6 parking fee.

Saturday Feb. 22, 8:30 AM

Coyote Hills Regional Park

Half day. **Leader:** Frank Vanslager (650) 961-1505. **Directions:** Take Hwy 84, Dumbarton Bridge, east towards Newark. Exit right on Thornton, then left over freeway, as Thornton becomes Paseo Padre. Turn left at Patterson Ranch/Commerce Rd. into park. Meet at far end of Quarry Parking lot ¼ mile past park entrance. **Notes:** An entrance fee should be expected. **LO, RC**

Sunday Feb. 23, 7:30 AM

Santa Cruz Coastal Hot Spots

Half Day (optional plus). **Leader:** Todd Newberry, Santa Cruz Bird Club (831) 426-8741. **Directions:** Meet 7:30 AM at the Santa Cruz lighthouse on West Cliff Dr. From Hwy 17 take Hwy 1 "north" (toward Half Moon Bay), turn left on Bay St. (just after McDonald's), go to its end, turn right onto W. Cliff Drive, follow bluff-top to lighthouse. For those running late, at 8 AM we will be on West Cliff Dr., checking inter-tidal shelves as we approach the Natural Bridges overlook at the west end of West Cliff Dr. **Highlights:** A chance to visit local birding hotspots and to chase recently reported goodies. **Notes:** Dress in layers; Todd's trip goes rain or shine.

Saturday Mar. 1, 8:00 AM

Windy Hill OSP

Half day. **Leader:** Kirsten Holmquist (408) 747-0988. **Directions:** 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. 2, 9:00 AM

Stanford Campus

Half day. **Leader:** Dick Stovel (650) 856-6105. **Directions:** 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. **Highlights:** Local breeding birds and early returning migrants should be active. **Difficulty Level:** This field trip is highly recommended for beginning birders. **RC**

Friday, Saturday & Sunday Mar. 15-17
Honey Lake, Eagle Lake & vicinity

Leader: Bob Hirt (408) 821-2732. **Highlights:** A weekend 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 on this unique field trip.



NEW YEAR'S BLOW-OUT SALE!

Come in and enjoy 20% off of all* items in the Shop!

*Does not apply to used or consignment items

Conservation Corner

By Shani Kleinhaus, Environmental Advocate

San Jose approves Master Plan for Water Pollution Control Plant

Despite strong opposition from every environmental group in the South Bay region, eight of eleven City of San Jose Council Members approved the Master Plan for the lands of the San Jose Water Pollution Control Plant.

San Jose claims that the Plan “balances” development, recreation and habitat in allocating all but 180-acres of the Plant’s buffer lands to development. We believe this is a wrong turn in San Jose’s future, as the City and the region grapple with the increasingly evident impacts of Global Climate Change, Sea Level Rise and loss of Biodiversity and Migratory Stop-over Sites. The loss of hundreds of acres to development will soon be evident, as burrowing owls and other species will be confined to a habitat fragment of 180 acres, embedded in a sprawling landscape of industrial and office development, vast sport fields, roads, parking lots and other urban “improvements” between highway 237 and the Bay, from Alviso to Milpitas.

We wish to recognize the thoughtful efforts of the city leaders who understand the changing climate realities, understand the meaning of adaptation to Sea Level Rise, and are willing to stand for habitat and species that are important to us. The efforts of these leaders to preserve habitat is often in front of great pressures from developers, labor unions and colleagues. **We are grateful to San Jose City Council Members Sam Liccardo, Ash Kalra and Kansen Chu for their leadership in opposing the conversion of precious habitat in North San Jose to urban sprawl.**

Memorial Parks in San Jose

The need to provide burial facilities in a growing metropolitan area results in proposals for new cemeteries and the expansion of others. A proposed cemetery covering over 100 acres in the hills above Coyote Valley east of Calero Reservoir is of great concern, since the developer is looking to cut the hills, fill the valleys, and create a flat, irrigated lawn and a network of roads. During San Jose’s General Plan Discussions, this cemetery was considered, and allowed with intent to build a natural burial cemetery. We are following this project closely, and advocate for a natural burial alternative that would not re-contour the landscape and would avoid the excessive irrigation, roads and fences.

In addition, SCVAS successfully advocated against a proposed expansion of San Jose’s Oak Hills Memorial Park, since the proposed site for expansion was a designated burrowing owl mitigation area (Dairy Hill).

Ulistac Natural Area still threatened

Strong community opposition to the proposed construction of Soccer Fields on Ulistac Natural Area resulted in the City Council of Santa Clara proceeding with a “Youth Sports Complex Feasibility Study.” This process embeds significant risk to Ulistac, as it often lumps together environmental concerns as one in many other “stakeholder” interests. SCVAS will continue to watch closely as the City moves toward a decision.

The Avocet 4

Volunteer Ventures

by Toby Goldberg, Programs Coordinator

I’ll admit it - we were a little nervous at the beginning of the spring when we found out we were going to need to change venues for our annual fall festival, Wildlife Education Day. As those of you who have participated in the event know, it’s a large event with lots of moving pieces, and the thought of having to completely revamp the logistics for a new location was more than a little daunting.

We shouldn’t have worried. Thanks to the amazing support of the City of Cupertino Parks and Recreation Department, and to all the hard work by event volunteers, what resulted was a truly amazing - and record-breaking - event.

- Saturday, October 26th dawned warm and sunny, and we were incredibly grateful for the beautiful natural shade present at the new venue, Blackberry Farm.
- Volunteers lent a hand all week to help get the tables and supplies in place, in preparation for a long day on Saturday.
- City of Cupertino staff helped us overcome some unexpected crises to make sure we could get everything into and out of the venue smoothly.
- SCVAS volunteers showed up bright and early Saturday morning to make sure everything looked great for our event participants.
- Our food vendor, Munch India, offered a tasty lunch option for festival participants.
- And we had over 25 community organizations on hand to provide a truly memorable experience for the event attendees of all ages.

After counting up all of the registration sheets, we were astonished to discover that we had over 900 event attendees - by far our best year ever! Of course, this amazing event was only possible because of the support provided by many many people, and we want to acknowledge some of them here:

Our Event Sponsor:



Michael Lee
Environmental Foundation

Our Event Supporters:

Los Gatos Bird Watcher
House of Bagels
Noah’s Bagels
Summer Winds of Cupertino

Our Event Presenters:

Wild Cat Education and Conservation Fund
MickaCoo Pigeon and Dove Rescue

Our Event Volunteers:

The SCVAS Board of Directors
The SCVAS Education & Environmental Action Committees

And the many many others whose help made this event possible.
Thank YOU - one and all!!

Adult Education Classes - Winter (and beyond) in 2014

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.

Bird Photography in the Field with Ashok Khosla, Peter LaTourrette, and Bill Walker

If you love birds and want to capture those fleeting 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? Perplexed and puzzled by picture processing? 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 Saturday session in the field; and an afternoon session at SCVAS headquarters learning how to post-process your digital images (we'll stop for lunch in between). All levels of photographic skills are welcome to join, as are digiscopers; please bring a computer to the Saturday afternoon session.

To **sign up**, please contact the SCVAS office as listed above. For specific questions about the class, please contact Ashok at ashok@seeingbirds.com.

Dates: Intro Class: Thur. 1/30; 7-10PM. Field: Sat. 2/1; 7AM-10:30AM. Lunch: Sat. 2/1; 11:30AM-12:30PM. Post-Field Session: Sat. 2/1; 1-5PM.

Location: Intro Class: McClellan Ranch, Cupertino. Field: TBD (most likely Shoreline Park in Mtn View or Radio Road Ponds in Redwood City). No-host Lunch: Mings Restaurant in Palo Alto (1700 Embarcadero Rd). Post-field Session: McClellan Ranch.

Fee: \$50 (members) or \$85 non-members.

Class size limited to 15.



Anna's Hummingbird ©Tom Grey

“Ducks” with Lisa Myers

The San Francisco Bay Area provides the perfect opportunity to see many different species of ducks. This three week course will focus on this beautiful and diverse group of birds and will be held in three different duck habitats where we'll be on the look-out for roughly 20 different species of ducks. Did you know some ducks prefer open salt water while other's prefer to hide in fresh water creeks and some ducks eat fish while others are vegetarian. Another great thing about ducks, we can tell the males from the females. Beginning Birders welcome!

Dates: Thurs. Mornings Feb 6th, 13th, 20th; 10AM-12PM.

Locations: To be determined, based on recent sightings and weather.

Fee: members: \$80; non-members: \$95



Mono Basin and the Eastern Sierra with Bob Power

The east slope of the Sierra offers a spectacular array of breeding, post-breeding and migratory birds, from Williamson's Sapsuckers and Clark's Nutcrackers to Osprey and Green-tailed Towhees. With a six-day trip, we're able to explore a number of unique habitats including the alpine zone surrounding Saddlebag Lake, the high desert sage grasslands of the historic ghost town of Bodie, the extraordinary tufa formations of Mono Lake and the basalt columns of Devils Postpile National Monument. We typically see 120+ species of birds during this workshop, few are species available to study in the south bay, and all are stunning.

Important Trip Details:

Altitude: Lee Vining is our daily departure point at 7,000 ft in elevation. We venture off one day to Saddlebag Lake, at 10,000 ft. and above. It is not unusual for participants to feel the effects of the altitude and to need a couple of days to acclimate.

Physical activity: Each day involves some hiking at altitude. While at a birder's pace, it is still hiking at altitude. One morning is spent kayaking along the south shore of Mono Lake. Participants on this trip should be in reasonable physical condition and should consult their doctor if altitude is a concern.

Dates: Tues. July 1st to Sun. July 6th. Class size is limited to 11. We organize carpools each morning on location. We will have a maximum of three vehicles for our field trips. Please do not sign up for this workshop if you're not prepared to carpool each day. Carpooling expenses are shared by the participants and are not part of the base fee; typically \$5/person/day.

Fee: \$225 members; \$260 non-members. Fees cover: Kayaking, Bodie Entrance, Devil's Postpile Entrance, and Saddlebag Ferry. A portion of your fees go directly to supporting SCVAS Educational Programs.

Field Notes

(October 2013-November 2013)

by Bill Bousman

Geese through Hawks

The first **Greater White-fronted Geese** of the season were two over Coyote Creek above Hwy 237 on 10 Oct (PDU). A juvenile was at Lake Cunningham 23 Oct to at least 15 Nov (JPa, KBu). Of the five swans on outer Pond A3W on 17 Nov (FV et al.), two were **Tundras** and were identified on 19 Nov (SEM) and 24 Nov (MJM). The first **Eurasian Wigeon** of the season was on Pond A14 in Alviso on 29 Sep (MJM, RGJ). Males have continued there into November (v.ob.) with two on 26 Oct (MH). A single male was at the South County Regional Waste Water Authority (SCRWA) treatment ponds in Gilroy on 2 Oct (MMR, MJM) and was there at least through 15 Oct (v.ob.). Another male was on Pond A3W on 31 Oct-21 Nov (RWR, BM). **Blue-winged Teal** were found again, two males at the SCRWA ponds on 15 Oct (WGB). The first Blue-winged of the season on Artesian (Mallard) Slough in Alviso were two males on 23 Oct (MJM) and these teal were found there through the period (v.ob.) including two males and two females on 29 Nov and two more males nearby over Pond A16 (both WGB). A female Blue-winged stopped by the Mountain View Forebay on 6 Nov (MDo). One of our less frequent duck hybrids, a male **Cinnamon X Blue-winged Teal** was in Artesian Slough on 29 Nov (WGB). Eight **Redhead** showed up in the Alviso ponds on 29 Sep (MJM, RGJ). The peak count there during the period was 54 on 20 Oct (MMR), much less than have been there in recent years. The first of the season **Barrow's Goldeneye** was a male at Shoreline Lake on 26 Nov (SEM, KO), perhaps it will stay around. Our only loon for the period was a **Common Loon** at Calero Reservoir on 2 Oct (PDU). As in a number of recent years, a **Pelagic Cormorant** showed up on the Alviso ponds on 18 Oct (WGB) and was seen there at least through 17 Nov (v.ob.). An **American Bittern** was found in the entrance channel of the Mountain View Forebay on 5 Oct (KDeM et al.) and has remained into November (v.ob.). Other wintering bitterns included one along the Guadalupe River

below Coleman on 14 Oct (JPa), a second along Alviso Slough on 3 Nov (MH), and the third over Triangle Marsh on 17 Nov (JBr, WBr). A single **White-faced Ibis** over the Alviso ponds on 11 Nov (JaL) and a second one foraging in the Mountain View Forebay on 13 Nov (JMD) may be birds attempting to winter. A **Broad-winged Hawk** soaring west of I-680 in San Jose on 8 Oct (JLo) was the second migrant this fall (and both over urban areas). A light morph juvenile **Swainson's Hawk** was seen over New Almaden on 13 Nov (JPa et al.). Both an adult and a juvenile

Alviso provided both a Yellow Rail and a juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit, both exceptional finds

Ferruginous Hawk have been seen in the Coyote Valley through the period (m.ob.). A juvenile at the end of Marsh Road on 11 Nov (WGB) was the only other report.

Rails through Terns

Astounding was a **Yellow Rail** grounded at the Alviso EEC on 22 Oct (GKe) and was well photographed in the parking lot there. This is only the third recent county record of this secretive rail. A **Sandhill Crane** made a brief visit to the Palo Alto FCB on 4 Oct (MMR et al.). A few **Snowy Plovers** have used the Alviso ponds during the period (v.ob.) with a high count of four on 5 Oct (MMR). The concentration of **Lesser Yellowlegs** in

New Chicago Marsh at the end of Gold Street continued through 19 Oct (v.ob.) with a high count of 5 on 8 Oct (MMR). Single birds were also seen in Pond A16 on 23 Oct (MJM), Pond A15 on 26 Oct (MH), the Palo Alto Baylands on 7 Nov (JMa), and New Chicago Marsh on 16 Nov (MJM). During an SFBBO shorebird survey in the South Bay on 15 Nov, the party covering the Alviso ponds spotted a juvenile **Bar-tailed Godwit** in Pond A15 (MMR, MJM, LCr). This is only our third county record of this species that is famed for its migratory flights from the arctic to the South China Sea and then on to New Zealand. The bird shifted over to Pond A9 where it joined more than 37,000 shorebirds including 1,240 Marbled Godwits. Luckily, it remained through 18 Nov (m.ob.), although often a challenge to find amongst so many godwits and other large shorebirds. A late **Black Turnstone** was seen on Pond A15 on 5 Oct (MH). **Red Knots** continued to use Ponds A9 and A15 as a high-tide roost during the period. The high count was of 57 birds flying out of A9 as the tide dropped on 15 Nov (MMR, MJM, LCr, SCR). The **Baird's Sandpiper** passage was nearly nonexistent, saved only by a late juvenile in Pond A15 on 8 Oct (MMR). Somewhat better, the **Pectoral Sandpiper** passage petered out with two to six birds in the SCRWA treatment ponds in Gilroy on 2-10 Oct (MMR, MJM, RWR, FV) and a single bird in the Lockheed Martin marsh and ponds on 4 Oct (MMR et al.). **Elegant Terns** lingered during the period with a high count of 55 on Pond A11 on 3 Nov (MH) and the last one seen on 17 Nov (BM).

Roadrunners through Dippers

The only report of a **Greater Roadrunner** was one along Del Puerto Road on 24 Oct (WGB). A **Short-eared Owl** was seen in the marsh along Coyote Creek north of Pond A9 on 17 Nov (MDo, KDo). The last of the **Vaux's Swift** passage was of six birds over Monte Bello OSP on 7 Oct (GHa). The HY male **Costa's Hummingbird** remained at Vasona CP through the end of the period (m.ob.). It has been there for at least three months and three weeks, beating out a 1996 male that stayed at a feeder in San Jose for at least three months and a week, but falls short of the female at a Morgan Hill feeder



Bar-tailed Godwit (female)
©Tom Grey

Field Notes *cont'd*



Yellow Rail
©Julio Mulero

that remained for about five months and a week in 2011 and 2012. A female Costa's was seen along Alum Rock Falls Road on 9 Oct (SCR). **Lewis's Woodpeckers** were reported from the San Antonio Valley through October (v.ob.) with a high count of seven on 24 Oct (WGB). A small movement of Lewis's into the western Diablo Range has been observed with one seen above Cherry Flat Reservoir on 9 Oct (SCR) and one or two at Joseph Grant CP on 27 Oct (JJo et al.) and 23 Nov (JTh). An adult male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** showed up in Ed Levin CP on 18 Oct (GZ), likely the same bird seen there last winter. It has been found there through the period (m.ob.). Single **Prairie Falcons** have been seen off Fortini Road on 13 Oct (JPa), in the Coyote Valley on 27 Oct (BM), and along the Calero Creek Trail on 29 Nov (JPa). Presumably these observations are of one bird. A **Tropical Kingbird** was found near the southeast corner of Pond A3W on 30 Oct (BM) and remained at least through 17 Nov (m.ob.). Our nine previous visitors each stayed between one and three days, but this bird remained in the area for nineteen days—pretty neat. Six **Tree Swallows** over Lake Cunningham on 20 Oct (JPa) are probably part of a wintering flock rather than late migrants. We have only a handful of winter records for **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**, so one over the Lockheed Martin channel on 17 Nov (JMD) was of interest. Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** in St. Joseph's Hill OSP on 18 Oct (GKe) and four along the Calero Creek Trail on 7 Nov (JPa) may be attempting to overwinter. An **American Dipper** along Stevens Creek above Mt. Eden Road found on 7 Nov (RCP) was at a location used in past years. Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were banded at the Coyote Creek Field Station (CCFS) on

6 and 19 Oct (JS). Other records included two to four birds at the Sunnyvale Baylands Park 14-17 Oct (PKe, RKe, v.ob.) and one in Gilroy (JMy, RPh et al.). The timing suggests a weak fall movement. Two **Sage Thrashers** were found during the period (assuming they were different birds). The first was at Calero CP on 5 Oct (JHi et al.). The second was about one and a half miles east on Laguna Avenue in Coyote Valley (as the thrasher flies) on 25-26 Oct (DNI, v.ob.).

Phainopepla through Goldfinches

A female **Phainopepla** was near Spring Valley Pond in Ed Levin CP on 23 Nov (K&DB) and was seen again on 25 Nov (KO). **Northern Waterthrushes** were found again at the Charleston Road marsh during October (v.ob.) with two seen on 6 Oct (BM). A **Nashville Warbler** was found at the Ulistac Natural Area on 14 Oct (MMR), the second this fall. Banding data from SFBBO (*vide* JS) significantly augmented our fall records for **MacGillivray's Warblers**. Individuals were banded at CCFS on 8 Sep, 11 Sep, 28 Sep, and the last on 5 Oct. Our only **Blackpoll Warbler** this fall was found at the Ulistac Natural Area on 11 Oct (PDU) and was seen over the next two days by many observers. The only **Yellow-breasted Chat** of the fall was a bird captured at CCFS on 2 Oct (JS). The **Clay-colored Sparrow** found along the Guadalupe River Trail in late September was seen once again on 2 Oct (JPa). A **Vesper Sparrow** was seen at the pullout on the top of the Lexington Reservoir Dam on 23 Oct (KA). One or two **Swamp Sparrows** were found along the marsh next to the runway at the Palo Alto Baylands on 1 Nov (MDo) and have remained through the month (m.ob.). The first two **White-throated Sparrows** of the season were found at the Ulistac Natural Area on 11 Oct (PDU) and the Sunnyvale Baylands Park the same day (GZ, PLAT). By the end of period, at least 13 White-throateds had been seen plus two more at feeders. '**Slate-colored**' **Juncos** included one at a Los Gatos feeder on 27 Oct (MH) and a second at Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 26 Nov (SS). A **Summer Tanager** was calling along Stevens Creek below Hwy 101 on 3 Oct (MMR). A female or immature **Blue Grosbeak** was discovered at Ulistac Natural Area on 12 Oct (JPa, GZ, MJM, LCr) and remained at least one more day (m.ob.). A single female-type **Yellow-**

headed Blackbird was seen in Coyote Valley on 10 Oct (JPa) and another bird was flying over Coyote Creek above Hwy 237 the same day (PDU). Goodly numbers of **Great-tailed Grackles** continued at Lake Cunningham through the period with a high count of 47 on 20 Oct (JPa). Five birds were along the Lockheed Martin channel and ponds on 11 Oct (WGB), but appear to have moved on. A single male Great-tailed has been seen from Shoreline Lake to the Palo Alto Duck Pond on 5-28 Nov (m.ob.). **AHY Baltimore Oriole** was found along the Guadalupe River below Coleman Avenue on 25 Nov (JPa, AV) photographic documentation was obtained that day and on 26 Nov (EBa, DFi). The bird was last seen on 27 Nov (JPa, AV, KBu). This is the third Baltimore Oriole in 2013 (out of eight total for the county). A single **Lawrence's Goldfinch** was found at Monte Bello OSP on 8-22 Oct (GHa). At the opposite end of Monte Bello Ridge, three birds were found on 17 Nov (RCP). On the western side of the Diablo Range, a single bird was seen above Cherry Flat Reservoir on 9 Oct (SCR). Along Mines Road and in the San Antonio Valley, 5-23 birds were seen 21-24 Oct (RCi, WGB).

Observers: Kumaran Arul (KA), Katherine & Dorsey Bass (K&DB), Ellen Bateman (EBa), Bill Bousman (WGB), Jim Brooks (JBr), Will Brooks (WBr), Karen Burnson (KBu), Rich Cimino (RCi), Lea Crisp (LCr), Mike Danzenbaker (JMD), Karen DeMello (KDeM), Kelly Dodder (KDo), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Pete Duntun (PDU), Diane Finke (DFi), Garth Harwood (GHa), Jan Hintermeister (JHi), Marcel Holyoak (MH), Richard Jeffers (RGJ), Jim Johnson (JJo), Roland Kenner (RKe), Pat Kenny (PKe), Greg Kerekes (GKe), Peter LaTourrette (PLAT), Jasen Liu (JaL), Jim Lomax (JLo), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Juliana Manoliu (JMa), Brooke Miller (BM), Steve Miller (SEM), Jean Myers (JMy), David Nickerson (DNI), Kurt Ongman (KO), Janna Pauser (JPa), Ryan Phillips (RPh), Bob Power (RCP), Bob Reiling (RWR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Josh Scullen (JS), Scott Smithson (SS), Jim Thomas (JTh), Frank Vanslager (FV), Ann Verdi (AV), and Gena Zolotar (GZ).

RARITIES: Please drop me a note:

Bill Bousman, 321 Arlington Way,
Menlo Park, CA 94025,
or: barlowi@earthlink.net

The 2014 SCVAS Spring Birdathon Wants YOU!

Everyone, from beginner to expert birder, can participate in the 2014 SCVAS Spring Birdathon, a **major fundraising event** for SCVAS Conservation efforts and youth Environmental Education. **Your participation** makes a difference to kids, birds, and quality of life in the South Bay.

- **Anyone can win fabulous prizes**, from birding trips to resort getaways, excellent wines, and much more, by raising money and being a top fundraiser! It's not like the top 3 get prizes, or the top 5, or the top ten; **more than 30 participants won prizes** last year. This is a fun event folks. Join on in!
- **Anyone can join a team** by donating or raising at least \$50.
- **Anyone can sponsor a team or individual**. Check www.scvas.org/birdathon after February 1, 2014, 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.



The Snipe Hunters Birdathon Team, 2013, enjoys a beautiful day of birding at Alviso. A birdy bunch if ever there was one!



Best Bird (24-hr category)
"Geared Grebes"

Cape May Warbler
©Tom Grey

How to join in the Birdathon fun, raise money, and compete for a prize:

1. Check scvas.org/birdathon for rules, information, and prize list after February 1, 2014. Check back, as the prize list will be updated often.
2. **Talk to your birding friends** about forming a **Self-Guided Team** or joining a Guided Team for the 2014 SCVAS Spring Birdathon - pick a day to bird from March 29th to April 27th, inclusive.
3. *** **Photographers participate in the Birdathon too!** Just check the rules.***
4. **Register** yourself and your team or join a **Guided Team** led by one of our many expert birders (see page 9) by calling Susan Bell at the SCVAS Office, 408-252-3747 or online at scvas.org/birdathon
 - A. In the "4-hour category," join a team that birds several spots in four hours, or join one of our "Big Sit" teams.
 - B. In the "24-hour category" join an all day guided team;
5. **Plan your birding day** with your Self-Guided teammates. Create a 4-Hour or 24-hour (anything more than 4 hours) Birdathon that fits your team.
6. **Raise money - at least \$50 per team member**. It's so much easier than you think. **Just 5 friends sponsoring you at \$10 each!**
7. **Bird with your team** on your Birdathon Day and have fun! Post a photo of you in action on Facebook. Send your sponsors a bird photo.
8. **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 12th, 5:00 p.m.**, to be eligible for prizes.
9. **Attend the free Birdathon Awards Dinner on Wednesday, June 4th.**

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 scvas.org/birdathon.



Most Artistic (Photographer's Category)
"Shutterbirds"

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 scvas.org/birdathon. These teams are for adults over 17. The registration deadline is one week before the trip date. Each leader will contact you with complete details.

4-hour Birdathon Teams

There is nothing more exciting than trying to see 100 species in four hours. These 4-hour birdathons give you the taste of a big-day, let you participate in the birdathon fun, and still be home for supper.

Lean Green Birding Machine (LGBM) with Rob Furrow – Saturday, April 19th

All on bikes, completely green, completely fun.

Hi-Speed Rails with Bob Power - Sunday, April 13th

All on foot. completely green, completely healthy, an early-bird special, 7–11AM. Can we hit 100????!!!!!!

Rushing Thrushes with Bob Power - Sunday, April 20th

Not on foot; for adrenaline junkies.

The **OhMyGodwits! with Beth Hamel** ride again. This is a photographer's special. 4-hours of photography fun! Date TBD.

Other teams to be announced

Join in the Big-sit Challenge:

What in tarnation is a Big Sit??? I.D. as many birds as possible from within a 17-foot diameter circle within a 4-hour period of time. A tail-gate party for birders!

Multiple teams in multiple locations competing against each other and trying to break through the 60 species barrier. Calling all teams; join the fun and register now! Or, join these guided teams:

Data-sets with Stephanie Ellis – Saturday, April 19th

Probable location Shoreline Lake

Eagle Eyes with Bob Power – Saturday, April 19th

Probable location Coyote Lake

Your name belongs here! Can you sit and scan for birds at the same time? Can you organize a gourmet feast? Form your team and join Year 4 in the grand tradition of Big Sits throughout the world!

24-hour Birdathon Teams (this category is for any team out for more than 4 hours)

Nothing gets the excitement rolling better than a traditional big-day Birdathon. You will find all families of birds in many different habitats. You will wow your donors who pledged for every species you see. **Friends, office-mates, relatives, will all be astounded.**

"You did what??!" We hand-picked these skilled team leaders for an unforgettable Big Day.

Varied Twitchers with Mike Rogers – Date TBD

Persistent Picidae with Lisa Myers --- Date TBD

Rock Wrens with Bob Hirt – Date TBD

Bob-O-Links with Bob Power on Saturday, March 29th

Other teams to be announced

Who will challenge the great ones? Want to lead a Big Day team? This is your year! Contact executivedirector@scvas.org

Photographer's Birdathon!

Eight pioneering photographers launched the Photographer's Birdathon in 2011. In 2012, Barry Langdon-Lasagne shattered the 24-hour record with 123 species captured and Julio Mulero took the 4-hour honors with 49 captures from a tugboat! Join us for year four of this photographer's challenge.

Using the same time period, March 29th to April 27th, 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 not only compete with other birders for the fundraising prizes, but also compete for **best bird photograph, rarest bird, and most species identified in the 4-hour and 24-hour categories**. 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!

Events Calendar:

General SCVAS Activities:

Wed. 1/8 (date TBC) & 2/5, 7:30-9PM
The Bay Area Bird Photographers Meeting - Lucy Evans Nature Center;

E. Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto.

Topic 1/8: "Birds of the Ecuador Andes"
 - Tom Grey

Topic 2/5: "Extraordinary India: Regal Raptors, Sacred Rivers and an Ibisbill" -
 Pati Rouzer & Vivek Tiwari

See babp.org for more details

Tues. 1/14 & 2/11; 10:00AM

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

Topic 1/14: Avocet

Topic 2/12: Coot Field Trip; Details TBA

Wed. 1/15 & 2/12; 3-4:30PM

Nature Journaling Club with John Muir Laws

McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino

Topic 1/15: Drawing Shorebirds

Topic 2/12: Sketching Songbirds

These workshops are free and open to all ages (mature children must be accompanied by an adult). No RSVP is required, but space does fill. See www.johnmuirlaws.com for more details

Sat. 2/22; 10am-2pm

Cavity Nester Recovery Program Orientation and Training

McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino

See details below

SCVAS Young Audubon Program:

Mon. 1/20; 8:30AM-12:30PM

Young Audubon "Day of Service" activity

Join us at McClellan Ranch Preserve to help restore some of the park's natural beauty.

Mon. 2/17; Morning (exact times TBD)

Young Audubon Elephant Seal Tours at Año Nuevo State Park

Join us for a truly unforgettable experience (see next page for details).

Note: For all Young Audubon Activities: Call 408-252-3740 for the most current information or to make reservations. Information is also available on our website - scvas.org (click on "Kids' Corner").

Outside Events of Interest:

Feb. 14-17, 2014

Great Backyard Bird Count

See www.birdsource.org/gbbc for details

April 4-6, 2014

Olympic BirdFest 2014

Sequim, WA

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.

See www.olympicbirdfest.org for more details and how to register

Cavity Nesters Recovery Program (CNRP) Activities

Get involved this spring - enjoy the outdoors, and help our local cavity nesting species!

Sat. 2/22; 10AM-2PM

Orientation and Info Meeting; Hands-on Training for Monitors

McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino

10:00AM-12:00PM: We'll start the morning with a general information session for potential and/or new nest box monitors - or just-interested folks. This will provide some insight as to what's going on with our local cavity nesting bird populations, and how you can help stop their decline.

12:00-12:30PM: Light Lunch (provided by SCVAS)

12:30-2:00PM: After lunch, we'll walk along the nest box trail at McClellan Ranch Preserve and learn how to open nest boxes for monitoring, how to identify the different species, and how to troubleshoot. For all new monitors committed to the 2014 breeding season or any existing monitors who would like a refresher.

RSVP to 408-252-3740 or programs@scvas.org, or by using the online form at www.scvas.org/cnrp. NOTE: You do not have to attend both sessions, but new monitors should attend the AM session.

Sat. 3/8; 9AM-12PM (TBC)

Off-Site Nest Box Training

Arastradero Open Space

Preserve, Palo Alto. **Note:**

Training begins at 9AM, but participants need not attend the full 3 hours if unable to do so. *RSVP as at left.*



****Current CNRP Monitors****

Don't forget to prepare for the 2014 breeding season by cleaning out your boxes by the end of February

Debbie Thompson Resigns from SCVAS Board: 1998-2013

One of the most active and recognizable faces of the SCVAS board, Debbie Thompson served on our board since 1998, as President, Vice-president, and on many, (many!) committees over the years.

Fifteen year's of service on our Board is an extraordinary accomplishment. Add to that all of the many other ways that she strengthened this chapter - website support, General Meeting support, event support

- and you have the epitome of a volunteer who has given her all to an organization she believes in. We are certain Debbie's interest in and phenomenal support of our education programs and environmental advocacy efforts will continue, and we can only hope that others will be inspired by the example of cheerful service she has provided for the last 15 years.



Debbie (right) and the SCVAS Staff join author David Allen Sibley for a book-signing event at the Ranch in 2009

Friends of SCVAS

Gifts received between October 1st and November 30th, 2013

\$1,000-\$10,000

Alan and Irene Adler
 Doug and Gail Cheeseman
 Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris
 Robert and Deborah Hirt
 Steve Patt and Debi Jamison
 Bob Power and Amy Forseth
 David Presotto and Caryl Carr
 David Speer and Tiffany Choy
 Susan Welch
 John Wills

\$500-\$999

Anonymus
 Jan Hintermeister
 Jean McNamara
 Ethel Meece

\$250-\$499

Janet Bertaina
 Peter and Patricia Biocini
 Jerry and Ginny Kaminski
 Munir Kureshi
 James Little
 Stephan Rosenthal
 Donald and Mary Savant
 Robert and Kathryn Schauer
 David Steuer and Barbara Shufro
 Robin and Don Watenpaugh

\$100-\$249

Wanda Alexander
 Penelope Bowen
 Phyllis Browning
 Lisa Buckley
 Colleen and Gary Cunningham
 Morteza Danesh
 Ann Davidson
 Charles Bacon and Cynthia Dusel-
 Bacon
 James Estes
 Gerry Feeney

Jean Fordis
 Kit Gordon
 Dolores Hawke
 Tom Ingram
 Cindy Lockhart
 Tor Lund
 Marilee Mifflin
 Curtis and Betty Mitchell
 Julio Mulero and Renee Polizotto
 Mike Olavarri
 Dorothy Rayner
 Jennifer Rycenga
 Dina Saari
 Janet and Victor Schachter
 Melanie Sloane
 Kendric and Marion Smith
 Ulf Stauber
 Alan and Karen Thomas
 Ruth Troetschler
 Ann Verdi
 Vrshali Wagle

\$60-\$99

Cheryl Adams
 Marlow Antonucci
 Emmy Arcolino
 William Barnhart and Sherrie Wren
 Joan Bose
 Jeffrey Calado
 Virginia Carnevale
 Lyn Chambers
 Joseph Chen
 Dr. and Mrs. Charles Coston
 Madeline DeMarco
 Thomas and Pauline Ferrito
 Virginia Holmes
 Michael Johnston
 John and Jane Kesselring
 Rosalie Lefkowitz
 Steven Lovett and Abby King
 Art and Ann Muto

Gary and Elisabeth Nielsen
 Don and Dee Price
 Laverne Shaffer
 Mary Smith
 Marina Zucca

UP TO \$59

Beverly Adams
 Charmon Ashby
 Sally Baker
 Roberta Baker and Katelyn Daley
 Jean Batryn
 Irene Beardsley
 Patti Beck
 Harriet Benson
 Judith Borlese
 Peter Botsford
 Jean Carvalho
 Joseph Chavez
 Donald and Carolyn Clendenning
 John Colwell
 Cynthia D'agosta
 Maryann Danielson
 Gerald and Donna Ducey
 Marion Farber
 Michael Ferreira
 Christel Fliss
 Eric Flynn
 Ruth Anne Fraley
 Ardeth Greenquist
 Aaron Grossman
 Roxanne Handler
 Gary Harris
 Rosalie Jacobs
 Richard Jeffers
 Ken Johnson
 Jerry Jouret
 Arline Kapphahn
 Alice Kaufman
 Mark Keavney
 Santoosh Krishnan

Susan Kritzik
 Karl Leinberger
 Lorraine Leopold
 Peter and Christina Maltbaek
 Wayne and Georgina Marion
 Steve McHenry and Carolyn Straub
 Alan Miller
 Marilyn Morgan
 Thomas Moutoux
 Jennifer Moylan
 Anne and Samuel Ng
 Jeff Ng
 Susan Niemi
 Jean Palmeter
 Margaret Parkes
 Henry Pastorelli and Carla Dorow
 Charles Preston
 William Reach
 Mary Reeves
 Victoria Ridenour
 Suzanne Rogers
 Betty Rogers
 Grace Sain
 Larry Spivak
 Deborah Stacey
 Sharon Steele
 Madeleine Stovel
 Mark and Leila Sutherland
 Monica Sylvanus
 Deborah Symons
 Kristan Wheeler
 Richard Williams
 Betty Wyatt
 Karin Zimmermann
 Douglas Zody

A special thank you to the following corporations for their generous grant support:

Michael Lee Environmental Foundation
 Phillips Lumileds

Elephant Seal Breeding Season is here! Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to see pups and breeding adults up close! *Groups with children get first priority for this activity.*

SCVAS sponsored tours of Año Nuevo State Reserve

Date: Monday, February 17th* (President's Day)

(* We are reserving three tours - times still TBC as of this issue's printing)

Cost/person: \$7 for SCVAS members; \$9 for non-members.

Min. Age: 7-years-old and up

Go online - www.scvas.org and click on "Kids' Corner" - or call (408) 252-3740 for specific times and more information. Please call to make reservations.

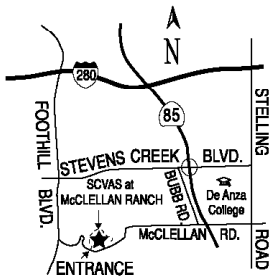
Space is limited, so call early!

NOTE: There is a separate \$10/car vehicle fee collected at Park entrance. Carpooling is strongly encouraged as parking is limited, but must be arranged by participants. SCVAS can not coordinate rides.

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

Phone: 408-252-3747
 Fax: 408-252-2850
 E-mail: scvas@scvas.org
www.scvas.org

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 San Jose, CA
 Permit No. 5869



Go Paperless!



Sign up to receive your newsletter via email and enjoy these benefits:

- Save resources - eNewsletters save trees, postage, fuel (and more)!
 - View the photographs in all their colorful glory!
- No waiting for the mail - get your newsletter up to 2 weeks sooner!



Contact the SCVAS office at 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

Diane Hart

Melanie O'Brien

Peter Hart

Tom Grey

Vivek Khazode

'11-'14

'13-'16

'11-'14

'12-'15

'11-'14

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

STAFF

Executive Director 408/252-3748

Stephanie Ellis executivedirector@scvas.org

Office Manager 408/252-3747

Susan Bell scvas@scvas.org

Programs Coordinator 408/252-3740

Toby Goldberg programs@scvas.org

Environmental Advocate 650/868-2114

Shani Kleinhaus shani@scvas.org

Office Fax 408/252-2850

Office E-mail scvas@scvas.org

Website www.scvas.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 10 AM - 5 PM

Saturday 10 AM - 2 PM

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

RARE BIRD ALERT: (415) 681-7422

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

Avocet Editor: Toby Goldberg

2014 Volume 61, Number 1

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

\$25 Song Sparrow (Student) \$35 American Avocet (Individual) \$60 California Quail (Family) \$100 Burrowing Owl

\$250 White-tailed Kite \$500 Peregrine Falcon \$1000 Golden Eagle 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.