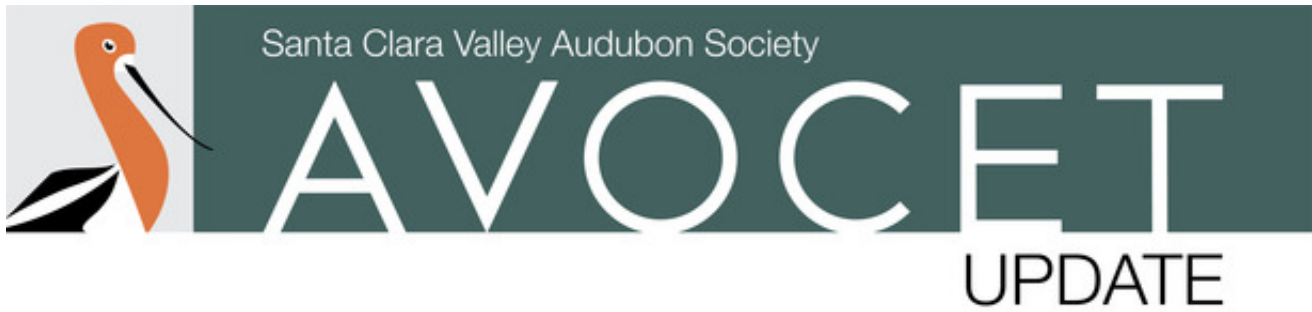


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Red-breasted Merganser: Chuq von Rospach

Welcome to the second **January 2021 Update!** There was just so much to talk about, we couldn't fit it all in the first update. The new year has already had enough news to keep us distracted, but what we could probably use instead is a little something to entertain us—take our mind off the headlines for a moment. To that end we've got a selection of brand new Self-guided Field Trips for you to enjoy, a 3-part Online Class to sign up for, and an exciting Speaker Series event. We're really excited about the year ahead—all the things we've got planned—and hope you'll help us make it just a little better than 2020. Stay well everyone!

~Matthew Dodder, Executive Director

Sign up for our first online class:



Gulls

Part 1: Loving the Chaos

Gulls

Part 1: Loving the Chaos (Structure)

Part 2: Into the Maelstrom (Topography, Age)

Part 3: Unfamiliar Shores (Rarities)

January 18, 25, and February 1 (Monday nights)

7:00 - 8:30 PM via Zoom

Matthew Dodder (an admitted Larophile) will teach an online 3-session evening class on Gull identification. This beginner/intermediate-level class will focus on structure, topography, and age as keys to identification. Basically, the important tools you'll need to make Gulls fun and less frightening. We will discuss what to look for and how to notice differences between our most common species. With any luck, we will succeed in decriminalizing this wonderful (albeit intimidating) family of birds and begin to feel better about the challenge they pose. Each registrant will gain access to a class-only chat room where they can ask related questions, make comments, share insights, or post photos. SCVAS will offer online classes on a variety of subjects throughout the year. This is just the first. Stay tuned!

[Register Here](#)



Photo: Matthew Dodder

More Self-Guided Field Trips for January

Start the new year with these additional January recommendations! Treat yourself to a day trip to the desolate Panoche Valley for nearly guaranteed world-class views of Ferruginous Hawk, Greater Roadrunner, Prairie Falcon and Mountain Bluebird. Try something a little different like a cemetery or a local working farm. Or head to the bay for shorebirds on the mudflats or waterbirds on a salt pond.

- [Panoche Valley in Winter: A Desolate Paradise](#) by Matthew Dodder
- [Mission Memorial City Park](#) and [Alta Mesa Memorial Park](#) by Ann Hepenstal
- [Martial Cottle Park in Winter: The Valley of Heart's Delight](#) (Accessible) by Ann Verdi
- [Pond A4: A Wintertime South Bay Birding Sampler](#) by Adam Burnett
- [Charleston Slough and Adobe Creek in Winter](#) (Accessible) by Mary Ann Robertson

Visit our webpage to see [past months' recommendations](#) or use our [index](#) to see all of our recommendations.

SCVAS would like to hear from you! Do you have a favorite place you love to bird that you would like to recommend to our members? Is there a place you would like to learn more about? If so, please email fieldtrips@scvas.org.

Online Speaker Series



Sahas Barve

The Acorn Woodpecker Paradox

January 20 (Wednesday)

7:00-8:30 PM via Zoom

Do Acorn Woodpeckers make granaries or do granaries make Acorn Woodpeckers? We will plunge into their complicated social lives—how they build granaries and what they will do to win access to a big granary. Sahas is from Mumbai, India and is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)



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