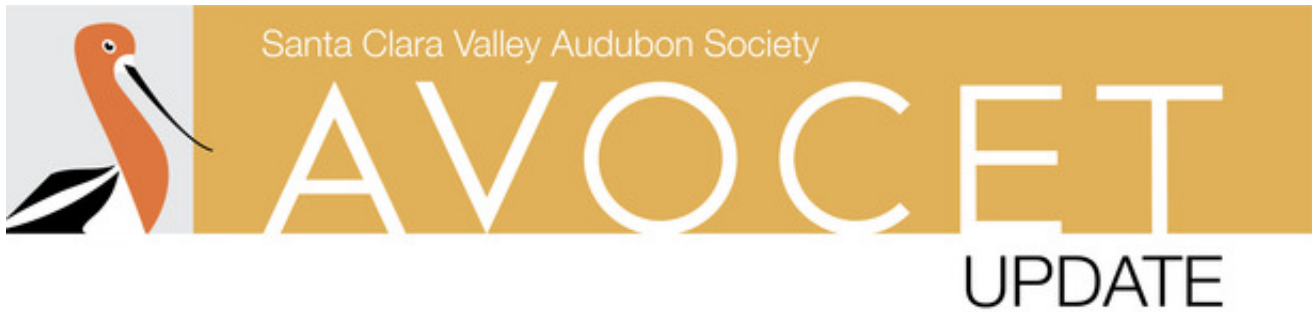


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Least Tern: Carolyn Lambert

July 2022

July 2022. Summer is here with a vengeance and it's been pretty hot out there! Birding is best done before 10:00 AM before excessive heat and shimmer makes everything too shaky to identify. For those who are bold (or crazy) enough to be out in those conditions, bring some water and you might just find some Phalaropes and Terns in the Sunnyvale Ponds in the next few weeks as well as post-breeding Shorebirds at New Chicago Marsh. This month SCVAS will host our annual event (via zoom) and we will review highlights of the past year and talk about plans for the next. There will also be another fantastic auction and maybe another quiz... Don't miss it! Also, our 100th Anniversary is rapidly approaching and we will be looking for volunteers to help us make that huge celebration happen. Finally, a new class on Raptors (just in time for fall migration) will be announced soon, so watch our site for registration soon.

~Matthew Dodder, Executive Director



Birdathon Awards Event

July 23, 7:00PM (via Zoom)

Time to sign up for our Annual Event. Festivities will include among other things a jazz performance by Bill Walker, a silent art auction (including a selection of wood carvings by long-time SCVAS volunteer and artisan, Jack Cole, and artwork from Jack Laws), goals for the upcoming year, new and old voices from our community, bird presentation and a quiz... Don't miss the fun!

[Register Here](#)



SCVAS Field Trip to see the California Gull Colony led by Mary Ann Robertson: Diane McCoy

Field Trips

In-person field trips for July post on **June 28**. Trips include a visit to Grant Ranch, an accessible walk at Lake Almaden, a beginners' trip at McClellan Ranch and a family-friendly walk at Palo Alto Baylands. Visit [field trips](#) for more information and to register.

NEW! To help more people have a chance at getting a spot on our very popular field trips, **please limit your sign-ups to 2 trips per month.**

Trips filled-up? Check a day or two before your trip of interest goes out. Sometimes we have cancellations.

Do you have a location you love to bird and want to share it with others? Consider leading a SCVAS trip. Contact Eve Meier at fieldtrips@scvas.org for details.



Lawrence's Goldfinches at the Grant Ranch House Bird Bath: Treasa Hovorka

Self-Guided Field Trip

In July, [phalaropes](#) and [terns](#) at the bay are an obvious highlight but you can also enjoy swallows at our inland lakes and ponds. The nesting grebes are special too. And, even though the songbirds are quiet this time of year, it can still be fun to visit our shadier urban parks and hills to see what the young birds are up to as they start to grow up and gain independence from their parents.

- Bayfront: [Emily Renzel Wetlands](#)
- East Hills: [Joseph D. Grant County Park](#)
- South County: [Parkway Lakes and the Coyote Creek Trail](#)
- Urban Areas: [Los Capitancillos Ponds](#)
- West Hills: [Foothills Nature Preserve](#)

See all of our [summer recommendations](#) or visit our [complete collection of guides](#).

If you would like to write a guide for a location that you love to bird, please contact Eve Meier at fieldtrips@scvas.org.



Western Tanager: Hita Bambhania-Modha

Backyard Birding

Beat the summer heat with water

Summer is here, and so far, it's been a hot one! If you'd like to help the birds that visit your home this season, consider putting out water. Birds need water to drink, of course, but also for bathing, in order to stay cool and clean and maintain their feathers. You don't even need to put out food - water alone is appreciated and will attract many birds.

You can make a water receptacle or bath from simple materials that you have around your home, like plant saucers. Just add perches, fill the basin with water, and you're good to go. Be sure to change the water daily and clean the bath regularly - disease organisms spread rapidly in water, and in order to benefit the birds, a bath needs to be clean and sanitary.

See [this SCVAS Backyard Birder article](#) (scroll down to "How to provide water to birds") for tips on how to make your own bird bath, the optimal depth of a bath (it's important!), and cleaning instructions.

Enjoy the new All Around Town

The [latest edition of All Around Town](#), our monthly backyard bird report, is here. Grosbeaks visit feeders, warblers brighten trees, and baby quail abound! Delve in and find out what birds our members and friends have seen near their homes lately.

We want to hear from you - what birds are in your yard or neighborhood now, and what are they doing? Send your notes, lists, and photos to backyardbirds@scvas.org and we'll publish them in the next All Around Town. There's no need to wait for a rarity or something new to pop by, just tell us what you're seeing and hearing. All birds are interesting, and your notes help us better understand the ones that live near us.



Raptor Class

Registration opens soon, just in time for the fall migration of our various Birds of Prey. Watch the skies and our website for latest SCVAS-Learn class about on this captivating assortment of Hawks, Eagles, Osprey and Falcons. Stay tuned...



Conservation Corner

Cupertino's Blackberry Farm Golf Course: Time to Return to Nature

We previously told you about Cupertino's consideration of restoring the Blackberry Farm Golf Course site to natural habitat (the other option is making repairs and maintaining the golf course). This property is near the SCVAS office and adjacent to McClellan Ranch Preserve, Stevens Creek, and the Stevens Creek Corridor Trail.

Please take 3 minutes to answer [this survey](#) by July 15th, and tell the City that we want to convert the water-guzzling turf to native habitat that supports the biodiversity of our region and that provides a more inclusive space for recreation rather than an exclusive place just for paid customers.

The City will also be taking public feedback at two in-person events.

- Summer Concert Series: Thursday, July 7 from 6:30 to 8 pm at Memorial Park Amphitheater
- Open House at the Golf Course: Monday, July 11, 4:00–6:00 pm (group tour at 4:30 pm)

Mountain View [Shoreline Wildlife Management Plan](#) – Aims to protect wildlife and habitat at Shoreline at Mountain View. The Plan looks to protect a wide spectrum of local species by focusing specifically on California Ridgway's Rail (*Rallus obsoletus obsoletus*), Black Skimmer (*Rhynchops niger*), White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*), and San Francisco Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas sinuosa*) in addition to the Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*).

- Watch a [5-minute video](#) describing the plan and browse an annotated outline of the plan.
- Then take a [5-minute survey](#) to give your thoughts on the wildlife you like watching at Shoreline, where you like to watch them, and any additional wildlife species that are not included currently (e.g., swallows, quail, frogs, rabbits and ground squirrels, bumblebees and butterflies). In response to the question regarding recommendations, please ask to include North Bayshore parks, the Charleston Retention Basin, and the egret rookery to the scope of the plan. Ask that the plan include a detailed roadmap and funding for special protection for nesting birds on the island. When asked about priorities, prioritize the protection of wildlife habitat from human disturbance.

Mountain View Community Tree Master Plan and Biodiversity – Mountain View's Parks and Recreation Committee will discuss the urban forest and rewilding the City through management of parks and trees on Wednesday, June 29, at 7:00 pm

- Please email the City of Mountain View (Send to: prc@mountainview.gov, Subject of email: Community trees, birds and pollinators), and/or speak at the meeting (June 29 at 7:00 pm)
- Please tell the Commission about the importance of planting native trees and plants, that the Community Tree Master Plan must reflect reflect the critical environmental services that trees provide (i.e., heat island mitigation, air purification, and habitat for birds and pollinators), that the Plan should include a detailed roadmap for reaching goals, and that parks should be less manicured and include native vegetation with habitat linkages along creeks and streets.



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