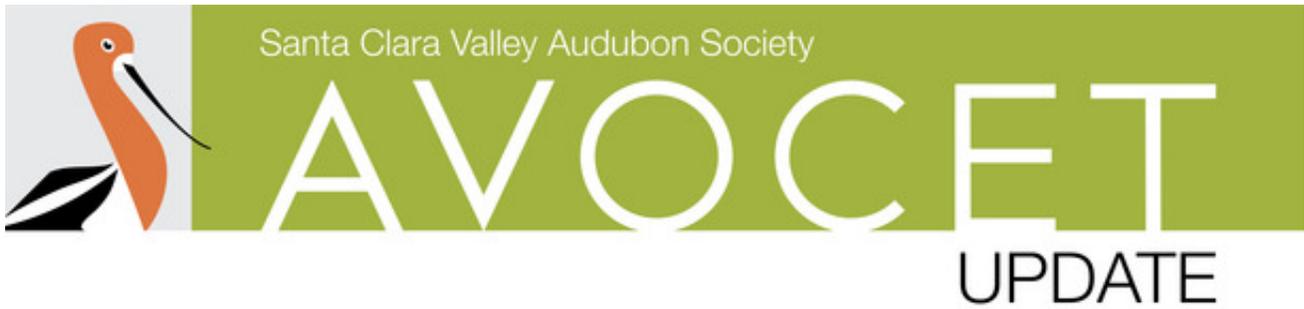


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Common Yellowthroat: Susan Weinstein

May 2022

It has felt like a rollercoaster the past few months. We welcomed the returning spring migrants with excitement and joy, the Birdathon roared into action with all its frenetic energy and once again lived up to its promise of engaging the community. We also got a new coat of paint for our turn-of-the century SCVAS headquarters at McClellan Ranch making it look like a new building. But then we lost another dear friend, Doug Cheeseman, who left us just a few months after we had said goodbye to Gail. Details about their Celebration of Life ceremony are included below and the family invites you to attend. Some goodbyes are forever, and others are just until later. Giulianna Pendleton for example, is leaving SCVAS to enter law school in Washington, DC and we will showcase her accomplishments over the past year in the upcoming AVOCET Quarterly. We anticipate we will see her again though, not as an intern or assistant, but a professional environmental lawyer. Her final Conservation Corner for SCVAS is included below. And finally, Barry and Ginger Langdon-Lassagne have begun their relocation to their dream home in San Luis Obispo. I will miss them enormously! They promise to remain active behind the scenes at SCVAS, but Barry will step down as President of the Board the end of May. I so enjoy knowing both of them and will miss seeing them all the time. They will remain the greatest of friends despite the distance. So many powerful motions accompany these various developments... it's hard to know exactly what to say except that life on earth moves and shifts in occasionally predictable ways, it presents us

with countless reasons to celebrate as well as reasons to pause and remember how we are part of a complicated and beautiful world despite its many shifts.

~Matthew Dodder, Executive Director



Cassin's Vireo: Luis Villablanca

Birdathon is drawing to a close

That's right, the Spring Birdathon 2022 is ending soon. There's still time to to pledges your support for your favorite team or individual. Of course, all donations will go toward our education program for the coming year, so please help out if you can. To join or support one of the teams, visit our [webpage](#).

Important dates:

May 8 Birdathon ends

May 16 Pledges due

June 1 Prize ceremony (details soon)

And don't forget to purchase one of our Sparrows of Santa Clara County t-shirts. All proceeds go toward the Birdathon.



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Tufted Puffin: Alvaro Jaramillo

Speaker Series
Alvaro Jaramillo
California Pelagic Birding

Alvaro has been birding since he was 11 years old, and started guiding local trips as a teenager. He is a biologist, researcher, conservationist and guide. He started [Alvaro's Adventures](#) to provide his own style of trip leading to tours. His trips are about the

experience of travel through birds, and having a good time while birding! This philosophy guides all of our tours, although each guide adds their own personal touch to each trip. In preparation for our pelagic birding season, Alvaro will discuss his experiences in Northern California waters and the Farallon Islands. SCVAS will join Alvaro on an upcoming pelagic birding trip this summer, so stay tuned!

Thursday, May 19
7:00 - 8:00 PM (online)

[Register Here](#)



Celebrating the lives of Doug and Gail

Please join the Celebration of Life for the beloved founders of Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris, **Doug and Gail Cheeseman**, on Friday, May 13 in the evening at Hakone Gardens in Saratoga, CA.

Please reserve your space today to get information about the event and to reserve your space as space for attending is limited!

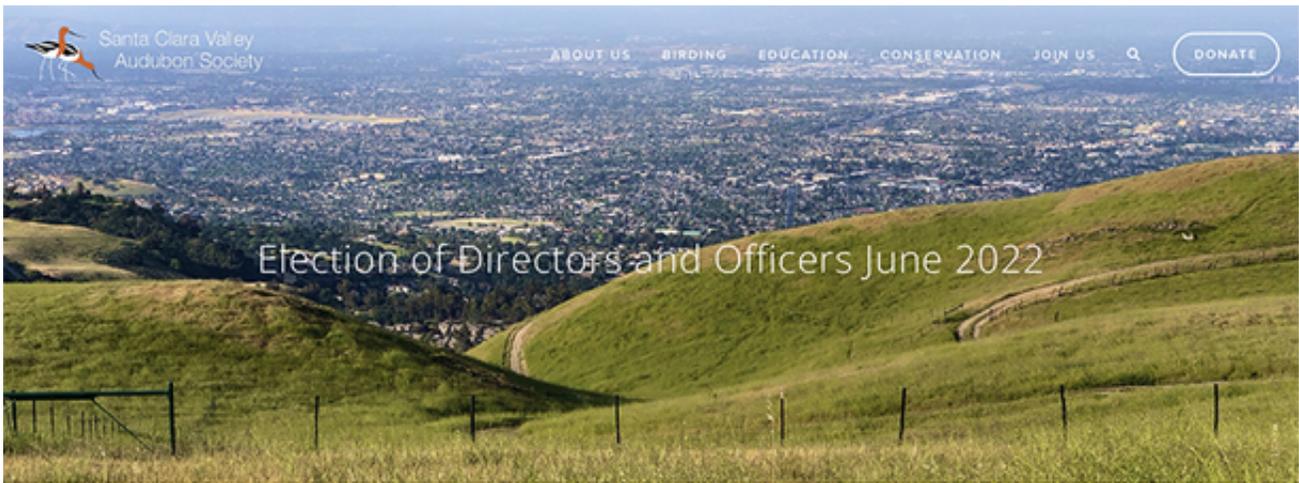
[RESERVE YOUR SPACE](#)

We plan to display a slideshow of photos of Doug and Gail and would like to include your memories. Please upload any photo you would like included in the slideshow on their memorial page's "Gallery Tab". Submissions will be accepted until the end of the day on May 9, 2022.

[VISIT THE CHEESEMANS' MEMORIAL PAGE](#)

We look forward to seeing you there to celebrate their magnanimous lives!

Sincerely,
The Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris Team



Election Time!

Our board year ends the end of May so it's time to cast your vote for board members and officers. Results will be announced at the Annual Event and on our website in June. Here' [the link](#) to cast your vote.



SCVAS Field Trip to Guadalupe Oak Grove Park in San Jose

Field Trips

In-person field trips for **May 1 - June 1** post on April 28. Locations covered include Hunting Hollow, Rancho Canada del Oro, Santa Teresa, Monte Bello and more! 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.



Western Kingbird: Teresa Cheng

Self-Guided Field Trips

We have added two new May recommendations to our collection:

- [Henry Coe State Park Headquarters](#) (East Hills) by Edward Rooks
- [Pearson-Arastradero Preserve](#) (West Hills) by Luis Villablanca

For all of our **May recommendations** and the complete collection of guides, visit our [self-guided field trip page](#).

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



Bushtit: Suresh Thirumalai

Backyard Birding

All Around Town - Hummingbirds are fledging, all sorts of birds are nesting, and orioles are here! Find out what birds our members and friends have observed lately in their yards and neighborhoods. And don't miss contributor Deanne Tucker's video of young Anna's Hummingbirds taking their first flights.

What birds have you observed in your yard or neighborhood? Send your notes, lists, and photos to backyardbirds@scvas.org and we'll publish them in the next All Around Town.

Backyard Bird of the Month - Our featured backyard bird for May is the Bushtit. These tiny, social birds flit through yards in flocks, gleaning insects and spiders from trees and bushes - they don't usually visit feeders. You can tell adult males and females apart by their eye color - males have dark eyes, females have pale ones (very young birds of both sexes have dark eyes). Bushtits build long hanging nests that look like suspended socks! Listen for their soft high-pitched calls as they breeze through your neighborhood.

Live data feed begins each night after sunset.

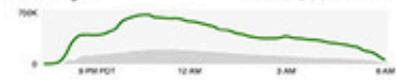
2,529,000Birds crossed Santa Clara County last night (est.) **High**Starting: Sun, Apr 24, 2022, 7:55 PM PDT
Ending: Mon, Apr 25, 2022, 6:15 AM PDT[Learn more](#)

PEAK MIGRATION TRAFFIC

676,700 Birds in flight (est.) **High**Direction: NNW Speed: 24 mph Altitude: 2,800 ft
Recorded: Sun, Apr 24, 2022, 11:05 PM PDT

Here's what happened last night...

Birds in flight



Flight direction and speed



Altitude



And so far this season...

Birds in flight (nightly avg.)



Total birds crossed



Expected nocturnal migrants

POWERED BY eBIRD

Nocturnally migrating species most likely to arrive or depart this region at this time of year, based on frequency of observations



Birdcast

If you are an eBird user you are probably already familiar with Cornell's newest feature, BirdCast: Migration Dashboard. This exciting new addition to their hugely popular platform gives us realtime updates on daily migration statistics, including numbers of birds migrating at night, peaks and trends in numbers as well as expected species in our county. Check out their introduction to the feature and [a link to the actual dashboard](#).

Discover a new
world of birding...

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gråhuvad skogssångare Geothlypis trichas © Carole Rose Macaulay Library | eBird

FEATURES



Find more birds



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eBird Best Practices

Malia DeFelice of our sister chapter, Sequoia Audubon posted an useful **eBird best-practices message** on PenBird recently. We have created a page for it on our site. She speaks about the proper use of hotspots, documentation and other topics. [Take a look.](#)



Still from Giulianna's "Effects of Light Pollution" video series. Find it [here](#)

Conservation Corner

Thank You and Farewell Giulianna

Giulianna, our Environmental Advocacy Assistant, will be leaving SCVAS in May. She is spending the summer relaxing and traveling before heading to law school in the fall! Giulianna has been an effective advocate and a delightful team member. We will miss Giulianna and wish her all the best in her career and in life.

"I am so grateful to have had this opportunity at SCVAS and I am looking forward to taking everything I have learned with me to law school!" - says Giulianna

CUPERTINO SURVEY: Prioritize Birds and Native Habitat Restoration in Cupertino's New Park, Lawrence-Mitty

Cupertino has a new park and you can help design it! Please complete [this survey](#) by May 23rd to provide design input for the City's new park, Lawrence-Mitty!

Please include the following recommendations:

- Responsible outdoor lighting
- Native habitat restoration and enhancement
- Trails that are unlit, slow, winding, narrow trails that have minimal impact on surrounding habitat
- No shade sails or other artificial shade mechanisms that would retain heat. Instead, provide more trees for shade

June Ballot Measures: the devil is in the details

Valley Water term extension. Following a 4 yes (Directors Tony Estremera, Richard Santos, John Varela and Gary Kremen), 3 no (Directors Barbara Keegan, Nai Hsueh and Linda LeZotte) vote at the board meeting, the **Valley Water (AKA Water District) has placed on the June Ballot a misleading measure.** Asking "*Shall the measure amending the Santa Clara Valley Water District Ordinance 11-01 to limit Board members to four successive four-year terms be adopted?*" Board members are currently limited to three successive four-year terms, so **a yes vote would extend rather than limit the term limits. SCVAS recommends a NO vote on Valley Water ballot measure A.**



BioBlitz: North Coyote Valley

Join SCVAS and the BioBlitz Club as we explore Open Space Authority's North Coyote Valley's North Coyote Valley Conservation Area on **Saturday, April 30, 9AM-12PM**. We'll be using iNaturalist to document our sightings of birds, plants, insects, and more as we venture through this restricted-access site in the heart of Santa Clara County's Oak Savanna habitat.

[Register Here](#)



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