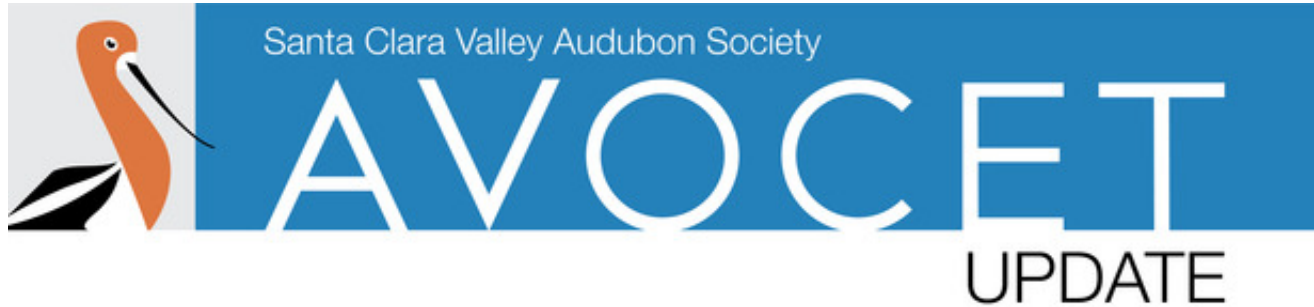


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Indigo Bunting: Tom Grey

## June 2023

The discovery of an Indigo Bunting in San Jose by Janna Pauser this week brought an electric shock of vibrant blue to our late spring birding. Whether it's cyan, azure, cerulean, cobalt, sapphire or navy, a few other blue-colored birds have shown recently, including Purple Martin, Blue Grosbeak and of course our familiar Lazuli Buntings. The phenomenon scientists call Raleigh scattering seems to be everywhere we look! And while the Birdathon may be over, the fun is certainly not—we will have our first in-person Awards Event in several years on June 3 (details below). It's too late to qualify for a prize, but it is never too late to make a contribution. You can still sponsor our Education Program via the Donate button on our site.

~Matthew Dodder, Executive Director



DALL•E2 (AI-generated): My prompt was "an oil painting by Matisse of a bird giving a presentation to other birds"

**Birdathon Awards Event**  
**Saturday, June 3, 5-7PM**  
**In person at McClellan Ranch!**

Come by the ranch for our wrap-up to Birdathon! Stories will be shared and prizes will be awarded at our first truly in-person event since the pandemic. We'd love to have you join us for snacks and beverages at this celebratory evening!

[Register Here](#)



Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

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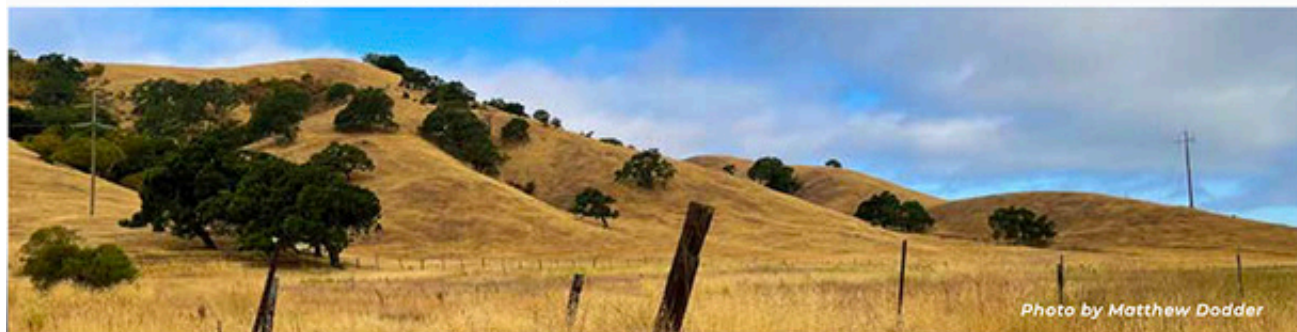


Photo by Matthew Dodder

### BIRDATHON AWARDS EVENT

Saturday, June 3



## How SCVAS helped me sleep at night

Rani Fischer, SCVAS Volunteer

On April 10, the Sunnyvale Planning Commission unanimously voted to prioritize the development of a **Dark Sky ordinance for all private properties as a study issue for 2024**. This unanimous vote brings me hope. While the Commission's recommendation is unlikely to result in the elimination of existing lighting on private properties, it can raise awareness and hopefully help reduce future proliferation of harmful lighting. But it is sad that the city has so little influence on what's already in place. It seems that unless new lighting requires a permit, the city has no say. And usually, replacing a light fixture - however large and bright - does not require a city permit.

## Avocet

The online version of the summer issue is now available on our website. [Download it here.](#)





Field trip to Sanborn County Park led by Dave Zittin, Floy Zittin and Edward Rooks (May 7, 2023)

## Field Trips

June through early July in-person field trips drop on **May 28**. Visit [field trips](#) for more information and to sign-up.

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



White-breasted Nuthatch pair: Teresa Cheng

## Self-Guided Field Trips

We've come up with some great ideas for places you can bird on your own or with your household. Our self-guided trips direct you to where to bird and provide advice on which birds to look for in which habitats. Browse our [complete collection of guides](#) by location, park name or season.





Anna's Hummingbird mother and nestlings: Deanne Tucker

## Backyard Birding

### What birds have you seen in your yard or neighborhood?

The new [All Around Town](#), our backyard bird report, is here! It's spring - orioles and grosbeaks are back, and baby birds are everywhere. Enjoy neighborhood bird observations from our members and friends.

What birds have you seen in your yard or neighborhood lately? Send your notes, stories, photos, sound clips, and other creative expressions to [backyardbirds@scvas.org](mailto:backyardbirds@scvas.org) and we'll publish them in the next All Around Town, our backyard bird report.



## Help, I found a baby bird on the ground! What should I do?

Not all baby birds on the ground need our help. Feathered young birds, known as "fledglings," spend time alone on the ground as they are developing their flying and foraging skills - this is normal, natural behavior. In many cases, the parents are still nearby and caring for them, even if you do not see adult birds.

If fledglings are healthy and safe, they do not need help, and you should keep your distance and leave them alone.

On the other hand, a baby bird might need help if it is too young to survive outside of the nest, if it is sick or injured, or if it is in danger of being hurt.

See our [Baby Birds web page](#) for a decision tree that will help you figure out **when and how to help**, and to learn more about **how baby birds develop**.

*Please be aware that it is against the law to keep most wild birds without a permit. Unless they receive specialized care, wild birds raised in captivity usually do not survive long and often have health and behavioral problems. Do not attempt to raise a baby bird on your own.*





## Conservation Corner

**Interested in stream corridors and creek setbacks?** If so, consider attending Valley Water's Land Use Subgroup virtual meeting on **Thursday, June 1st** from **10am to noon** via Zoom.

The topic is "**Protecting and Restoring Riparian Corridors: Challenges and Solutions.**" Our Environmental Advocate Shani Kleinhaus is one of several panelists who will share their perspectives on the topic.

If you would like to attend this event, please register [here](#).

Please share this with others that may be interested.



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