



# THE AVOCET

The Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

July-August 2016

## From the Director's Desk

by *Ralph Schardt, Executive Director*



Tom Grey

It's been quite a busy time since I started at SCVAS last October. We had a very successful membership renewal campaign, in our Yearly Appeal we approached our goal, and we've just wrapped up the Spring Birdathon. We couldn't do

any of this without your contribution! I thank you for your dedication to our chapter and appreciate the feedback and assistance you've given us over this last year. We are all very excited about the future and I'll make a promise that we'll keep you posted on important news so we can all work together for another great year.

Now, I'd like to share a few items of special interest for bird conservation. Currently, the west coast has some immediate issues that we are involved with, either through joint advocacy or in-direct support. Two especially important conservation issues include: Tricolored Blackbirds and Double-crested Cormorants.

In just over a hundred years, Tricolored Blackbird populations have decreased from well over several million birds to less than 150,000, a decline of more than 80%. Tricolored Blackbirds are mostly found in California and breeding colonies are sometimes as large as 50,000 birds. The birds normally settle into a small area of farmland or wetland where they nest, breed and raise their young. In order to assist the species, Audubon California is collaborating with local Audubon chapters and many multi-faceted organizations such as farmers, government agencies, and other environmental organizations to raise awareness, educate the public and work to reverse the population decline.

The primary reason for such a drop in population is due to the loss of native breeding and feeding habitat throughout California. This has forced the Tricolored Blackbirds to depend on grain-fields for nesting and feeding. The farmers harvest their crops at the end of summer, which is when the young are still in the nest, and they unknowingly destroy the young. Collaborative chapter and public efforts have been successful in developing programs to help grow the populations in the short-term, and increase public and private landowner's awareness for conservation support in the long-term. This collaborative effort, supported through research of the species as well as public education, provides hope that the populations will grow back. The goal is to increase the population to over 750,000 birds in the next 20 years.



Tom Grey

Another area of deep concern is the killing of Double-crested Cormorants in the Northwest. The Army Corps of Engineers was given permission to kill off large populations of these birds nesting and

breeding in the Columbia River estuary near Portland. This action was based on their feeding impact on endangered salmon. In order to protect the salmon, they intend to kill nearly 11,000 Double-crested Cormorants, and destroy over 26,000 nests. The targeted area has the largest breeding colony of Double-crested Cormorants in North America. This action has the potential to decimate the overall population and affect Caspian Terns and Brown Pelicans that nest in the same area.

*cont'd on page 9*

***BOTH Measures AA and A PASSED!***  
***Thank you to everyone who voted!!!***

### Monthly Speaker Series

**There are NO Speaker Series for the months of  
JULY and AUGUST.  
We will return in September.**

*(Additional information available at [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org) or by  
calling the SCVAS office)*

# July-August '16 Field Trips

(Full details of our Field Trips are available online at [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org))  
 Carpool if possible; bring binoculars, field guides, layered clothing.  
 LO = Lunch optional; RC = Heavy rain cancels; NF = No facilities available

## Wednesday July 6, 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, for directions or more details (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 July 9, 8:00 AM

### Charleston Slough

Half day. **Leader:** Nick Yatsko, (408) 247-5499. **Directions:** Meet at Terminal Way at the end of San Antonio Rd. north off Hwy 101 in Mountain View. **Notes:** All are encouraged to attend but birding will be geared toward the beginning birder.

## Wednesday August 3, 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, for directions or more details (408) 730-7545 with questions. See write-up for July 6<sup>th</sup> for details. **RC**

## Saturday Aug. 13, 8:00 AM

### Charleston Slough

Half day. **Leader:** Nick Yatsko, (408) 247-5499. For directions see the write-up for July 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Sunday Aug. 14, 8:30 AM

### Ano Nuevo State Reserve

Half day. **Leader:** Stephen Berlyant, (415) 420-3680. **Directions:** The entrance is along Hwy 1 about 30 miles south of Half Moon Bay or 20 miles north of Santa Cruz. **Highlights:** Possible birds include

Bank Swallow, Marbled Murrelet, Black Swift and early returning shorebirds. There is a \$10 per car parking fee, meet at the far (south) end of the parking lot. **Difficulty:** Plan on a 3-4 mile walk (half of it in sand), fog, bright sun and wind. **Notes:** Bring a scope, lunch, liquids, and dress in layers as the weather can be variable. **LO**



Double-crested Cormorants & American White Pelican  
 "Bored" Not Boring Directors  
 Ralph Schardt

## SCVAS Events Calendar

**Thur. 7/6, 7/13, 7/20\*; 12-1:30PM**

### Egret Office Hours

Shorebird Way, Mtn View

Join us for our weekly viewing and exploration of the Egret Rookery on the Google Campus. Volunteers especially wanted! \*Check before 7/20 with Christine at [christineslocomb@gmail.com](mailto:christineslocomb@gmail.com) to confirm Office Hours.

**7/14 & 8/11; 11:30-1:00PM**

### Nature Journaling with John Muir Laws

McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino  
 Free workshops for all ages! No RSVP required, but please be on time.  
 Go to our website, [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org), for more details.

## The Avocet would like YOUR Feedback!

You've probably noticed that the SCVAS newsletter has been changing the last several issues. We'd love to know what you think about it, please let us know!

Send your feedback to [programs@scvas.org](mailto:programs@scvas.org), or take our online survey - go to [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org) (scroll down to "What's New").

## New Faces of SCVAS

by Kym Sugano, Education Programs Specialist

**Tracy Neher,**  
 Office Manager



Tracy Neher is our new full-time Office Manager. She recently started volunteering for SCVAS and was delighted to hear of the position-opening. Her administrative and retail experience make running the Nature Shop a great fit for her skills. She is eager to learn about birds and looks forward to getting to know everyone! Stop by the Nature Shop to welcome her on board!

**Kym Sugano,**  
 Education Programs Specialist



Kym Sugano will be running the Education Department for SCVAS. She worked her way up the organization, starting as a volunteer. She was later hired as an Education and Outreach Intern, a part-time Education Programs Coordinator and finally as the full-time Education Programs Specialist. She is excited to explore new ideas and expand existing programs. Stop by and say hi!

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## Conservation Corner: Continued City Development

by Shani Kleinhaus, SCVAS Environmental Advocate

Office buildings, hotels and residential towers are filling in built out cities in the valley. Guided by the San Francisco Bay Estuary Institute Vision for a Resilient Silicon Valley Landscape, SCVAS' Environmental Advocates engaged and participated in planning processes throughout the county. We aim to introduce Urban Ecology principles into General Plans, Parks and Recreation Master Plans, and Urban Forest Master Plans, hoping that our urban landscapes will continue to support a diverse community of avian species.

We have been advocating for Bird-friendly Building Designs near open spaces and along the riparian corridor of our large waterways– Stevens Creek, The Guadalupe River, and Coyote Creek. We have been successful in Mountain View and Sunnyvale, but San Jose continues to be difficult and still has non-bird friendly designs in sensitive habitats. Our advocacy efforts on the Delmas Mixed Use towers at the confluence of the Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek resulted in some improvements to the design and a promise to monitor bird strikes.

We see large-scale planning processes moving forward in most of our cities. In Palo Alto, a new comprehensive plan to guide its development and growth is prepared. In Mountain View, the revised specific plan to allow the development of additional office spaces and more than 10,000 housing units in North Bayshore Towers is organized. In Santa Clara, councilmembers are finalizing an EIR for an immense office tower development on the City's golf course-- a former landfill. Near Alviso, planning staff considers the development of hotels, recreation, distribution and data centers. In Sunnyvale, office towers are developed north of 101/237. In San Jose, there is a boom of development Downtown.

We are especially concerned with the future of North Coyote Valley. Hundreds of acres are zoned for industrial development by the City of San Jose. This land north of Tulare Hill, features active and fallow farmland, wetlands, and creeks that provide habitat for birds and wildlife. Birders often visit the area along Baily or Laguna Avenue to see Tricolored blackbirds, and an active nesting pair of Swainson's Hawks. Soon, the land may be transformed, and distribution centers with hundreds of semi-trailer trucks will be what we see instead.

The Panoche Valley Solar project received all the necessary permits from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service. The project proponents have already started capturing and relocating endangered Giant kangaroo rats. With Defenders of Wildlife and the Sierra Club, we filed lawsuits challenging these permits, but legal challenges takes time, and there is no resolution yet.

Finally - it is not too late to visit the Egret rookery of Shorebird Way in Mountain View. Dozens of Great and Snowy Egrets are nesting there again, but this year we have additional species in the mix: Black-crowned Night Herons! In terms of non-shorebirds, a pair of Black Phoebes raised their young at a window-corner and a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks are raising beautiful offspring as well!

If you are a resident of San Jose, and wish to help us protect Coyote Valley, please contact [advocate@scvas.org](mailto:advocate@scvas.org) and if you are interested in engaging in YOUR city - please let us know!



Red-shouldered Hawk  
Egret Rookery MV  
Kymberly Sugano

### SCVAS Wish-list

If you happen to have these items we would GREATLY appreciate them!

- Set of 12 binoculars (Education)
- Box Freezer (Dead specimens)
- Portable air conditioner (Office)

## Shhhh... It's a secret...



There *may* be an  
**SCVAS Swap Meet**  
at the end of summer!

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# Volunteer Recognition Awards

by Kym Sugano, Education Programs Specialist

Volunteers are the back-bone of SCVAS and without them, we would not be able to run the way we do. Every year SCVAS honors our volunteers and we try to honor volunteers that really stood out for us or was particularly exceptional in our programs that year. The following are the 2016 Honorees:

*Erratum: The 2016 Volunteers honored at this year's Volunteer Recognition Dinner were listed incorrectly in the May/June Avocet. The names below are correct.*

## **Kitty Trejo and Marti Wright**

Kitty and Marti are the volunteers that make our Conservation program work. Since their retirements from decades in military service (Marti) and a medical career (Kitty), civic engagement are in their hearts. For many years - Kitty and Marti have been filling the gaps whenever volunteers are needed and are always on the front line. They helped monitor burrowing owls and guard owl nests during firework displays, educate youth about burrowing owls, native plants, and egrets, and advocate in letters and in front of City Council.



## **Danielle Blakkan**

Danielle is an amazing person to work with on the Burrowing Owl Project. She helped us search for burrowing owls through the heat of the summer, the cold winter, and the spring rains. During her first surveys, she had a keen eye and spotted an owl at a distance ducking behind some grass that others missed. She is a great person, who genuinely cares about the environment and the burrowing owls. She brings the fun to our surveys.



## **Liz Salzer**

Liz started as a volunteer in 2011 and immediately dove into our Wetlands Discovery Program, participating in both the in-class and field trip components. She soon got involved in other activities as well, such as our many Outreach Events. After taking a break, she returned to volunteering in full swing, assisting as a much needed Wetlands Docent on the field trips. The students have enjoyed her as a leader and she has proved time again to be very reliable, flexible and consistent. We love working with her!



## **Kate Gudmundson**

Kate is typical of many of our star volunteers in that she is involved in many different programs, organizations and activities. Kate starting volunteering for us in 2007 with the Cavity Nesters Recovery Program (CNRP) as a “backyard” birdhouse monitor. She now monitors nest boxes at Mission City Cemetary, Ulistac Natural Area, and others. Over the years, her patience and experience with the nest boxes have been a wonderful resource to the SCVAS staff and other CNRP monitors. We know that our local songbirds have greatly benefited from her dedication.



## **Pooja Vedam**

One of our youngest volunteers, Pooja has been a regular helper in our Nature Shop assisting with a variety of duties, including inventory, making signs and name tags, and providing needed assistance in the front office. Last year she helped with our Holiday party and led in the singing of Christmas Carols, while accompanying the activities on her Ukulele and kazoo. And all of this while juggling a full school load! We hope her passion and dedication will inspire the next generation of nature lovers.



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## Dick Blaine

Dick has been a volunteer since 2001. During his time with SCVAS, he has been instrumental in helping our front office with a variety of computer related assistance, the Cavity Nesters Recovery Program, and more. He was fundamental for SCVAS' Cavity Nesters Recovery Program, as he set up the McClellan Ranch Nest-box Trail we run today. Most recently, he has worked with our office staff to train and assist with a complicated database program; essential to our ongoing membership and donor operations. Wherever there has been a need, Dick has been there.



## Elaine Gould – Special Recognition

At various times over the last 3 decades, Elaine has served on the SCVAS Board, Education Committee, and as a Wetlands Discovery Program docent. It was her passion for education with fellow volunteer and SCVAS member Allen Royer, that helped create the Wetlands Discovery Program in 1989 that is still going strong today. A retired teacher from Hacienda, Elaine's educational background has been invaluable in helping to create the robust education department we have. Elaine has been a constant presence as a helping hand, supporting SCVAS in innumerable ways, great and small. We are so proud to know her, and feel extremely grateful that SCVAS has been the beneficiary of her passion for so many years.



### Special Thanks

**Bob Reiling** is stepping down as our long-time field trip leader and organizer. His dedication of many years is greatly appreciated!

**Melanie O'Brien** is stepping down from the Board and her volunteer activities. She will be missed, but promises to return!

From all of us at SCVAS, we thank you so much for your hard work!

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## Volunteer Needs

by Kym Sugano, Education Programs Specialist

Although summer is often a quieter time around the SCVAS office, here are some summer opportunities that might be of interest:

**Conservation-** (contact shani@scvas.org):

4th of July Burrowing Owl Guards: For anyone around on the 4th of July, this is a fun opportunity to see great fireworks, and help protect the burrowing owls. Volunteers are needed to assist the City of Mountain View with crowd management during the 4th of July fireworks display at Shoreline Park, from 6pm to 10:30pm (fireworks run from about 9:30-10pm). **RSVPs** are required.

Environmental Action Committee: Volunteers need to help with writing and public speaking in support of important and time-sensitive issues.

Coyote Valley Monitors: Surveys and monitoring of creekside habitats in Coyote Valley.

Photographers: To provide photographs for communications relating to conservation and habitat preservation.

**Education-** (contact programs@scvas.org):

Wetlands Docents–InClass Programs: Volunteers assist elementary students in a series of stations focused on the wetland habitat, birds, and changes in the bay. As a Wetlands In-Class Docent, you are

also encouraged to volunteer for other school activities as they are scheduled. Training is provided.

Wetland Docents -- Field Trip: Volunteers lead groups of students around Charleston Slough, on a bird and nature exploration walk discussing the topics they learned at school. Training provided.

**Office-** (contact rschardt@scvas.org):

Office Assistants: We're looking for a few helpers over the summer to assist with a variety of office projects - from data entry to inventory to basement organization. No experience needed; Apple computer experience is a plus. Exact schedule will depend on availability and needs.

**Other needs:**

Palo Alto Bird Counts Coordinator: For anyone interested in birds, birding, citizen science, and working with a great group of dedicated birders, the Palo Alto Bird Counts is looking for you! The peak of the efforts are in May and November, and you'll have lots of support from veteran counters and the Christmas Bird Count compiler, Al Eisner. Contact the SCVAS office for more details if interested.

Of course, there are many more opportunities available to help out. Please check out our website or contact the Executive Director, Ralph at (408) 252-3748 or rschardt@scvas.org.

We need YOUR help! Volunteer NOW!

# Field Notes

(April-May 2016)

by Pete Dunten

## Geese through Phalaropes

The four Greater White-fronted Geese spending the winter near the Palo Alto Golf Course were last seen on 4 Apr (WGB). Three singles were with Canada Geese in May, one near the bay on 3 May (MSh), one at Anderson Reservoir on 13 May (SCR), and one outside San Martin in Coyote Valley on 19 May (MP). Cackling Geese were last seen in April, when groups of four were at Byxbee Park on the 4th (MDo) and at Lake Cunningham on the 10th (BH, BSw), and a lone bird was along Zanker Rd on 30 Apr (MMR, NM, RJ). The last Snow Goose to depart was last seen at Almaden Lake on 6 Apr (JPa). Small numbers of diving ducks that breed further north are occasionally found over the summer. Three Redheads were spotted on Salt pond A10 through 22 May (AR, MMR, NM, RJ) and one to two were on Alviso salt pond A16 through 22 May (m. ob.). Single female-plumaged Common Goldeneyes were at the marsh west of the Sunnvale WPCP on 3 May (GZ) and on a closed refuge pond and on Alviso salt pond A16 on 22 May (both MMR, RJ, NM). An unexpected Red-breasted Merganser on Alviso salt pond A14 added to a Birdathon team's total on 22 May (MMR, NM, RJ). The only Loon on migration was a Common Loon at Coyote Lake on 10 Apr (JRy, LFI). Late-to-depart Horned Grebes were still on Alviso salt pond A16 on 12 May (AR) and a closed refuge pond on 22 May (MMR, MJM, RJ). Cattle Egret appearances are hard to predict. Two were at Lake Cunningham on 10 Apr (BH, BSw), not far from grazing cattle across S. White Rd bordering the park. Single Swainson's Hawks on migration were over Smith Creek in the Diablo Range on 26 Apr (BM) and Ed Levin CP on 17 May (SSh). Nesting Snowy Plovers on Alviso salt pond A13 had some success, with 4 young birds of 21 total spotted on 22 May (MMR, RJ, MJM). A Ruddy Turnstone, spiffy at this time of year, turned up at Alviso salt pond A16 on 21 Apr (FV) and two flew by Alviso salt pond A12 on 30 Apr (MDa). A Little Stint, only the second found in the county, rewarded careful

## Eastern vagrants in May follow a Little Stint in April!

study of the hundreds of peeps in the impoundment between Alviso salt pond A12 and the railroad tracks. First noted on 20 Apr (WBr) and identified on 21 Apr (MI), the Stint stayed through 4 May (m. ob.) and may well have spent the winter in the south bay. The Stint drew many admirers, and the extensive coverage of the peeps yielded a flagged Western Sandpiper on 26 Apr that had been banded near Panama City, Panama on 28 Jan, 2014 (PDU). Another nice find was a Semipalmated Sandpiper photographed on 29 Apr (CF), only the seventh record in the spring and the earliest by three days. Observers looking for the Stint also caught the spring passage of Red Knots at the Alviso salt ponds, two at A17 on 26 Apr (PDU) and one at A12 on 27 Apr (EGo). The first Wilson's Phalarope on its way north was on the Alviso salt ponds on 30 Apr (SCR). Most of the population migrates north via the Central flyway. Fall migration will bring many more Wilson's Phalaropes to the south bay, where they molt before continuing to S. America for the winter.

## Swifts through Flycatchers

Black Swifts winged overhead on four dates between 28 Apr when one was over Loma Prieta (AR) and 21 May when eight were over the Coyote Creek Field Station (RJ). Vaux's Swifts returned on 12 Apr with two over Los Capitancillos Ponds (AVe). A local nester was seen entering a chimney near the McAbee entrance to Almaden Quicksilver CP on 2 May (JPa). The first Black-chinned Hummingbird of the spring returned to the Willow Glen neighborhood of San Jose on 1 Apr (BM). The spring passage of Calliope Hummingbirds was presaged by a male at a feeder in Los Gatos on 6 Apr (KB). Six more were seen between 17 Apr and 1 May on Loma Prieta (m. ob.). A late-to-depart Red-breasted Sapsucker was still on the Coyote Valley floor along Llagas Creek on 5 May (SCR). On 27 Apr, a female Pileated

Woodpecker was a nice find near the Hunting Hollow entrance to Henry Coe SP (HA), one of only a handful of records for the park. Returning nesters included an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Loma Prieta on 16 Apr (SMi) and a Western Wood-Pewee at Twin Creeks south of Almaden Reservoir on 15 Apr (JPa). Depending upon how one feels about difficult identification problems, this spring was either fantastic or a nightmare, with four migrant Empidonax species found. Transients passing through on their way north included Willow Flycatcher, Hammond's Flycatcher, and two species rare this far west, Dusky Flycatcher and Gray Flycatcher. Single Willow



Gray Flycatcher  
Lee-Hong Chang

Flycatchers, typically the latest flycatcher to pass through in the spring, were found along Llagas Creek near Bloomfield Ave on 20 May (SCR) and at J Grant CP on 21 May (KWn). Hammond's Flycatchers are one of the earlier migrants; one was at Smith Creek on 5 Apr (BM) and four were there on 16 Apr (MMR, MJM, RJ). A Dusky Flycatcher was among the migrants grounded at Ulistac NA on 7 and 8 May (MJM, MMR), the first in the county since the spring of 2011. A record number of Gray Flycatchers visited the county, the first since the spring of 2013, beginning with one along Mallard Slough adjacent to salt pond A16 on 2 May (WGB), another at Sunnyvale Baylands on 4 and 7 May (AR, WBr), and a third at Ulistac NA from 5 to 8 May (GZ, m. ob.). Say's Phoebes were found breeding again this year, with three pair at or near Moffett Field on 3 and 4 May (MMR, SCR) and a single bird along Hellyer Ave between Hwy 101 and Silver Creek Valley Rd on 7 May (AVi). One of the two nests noted at Moffett Field held two young on 3 May (MMR). The first returning Ash-throated

## Field Notes *cont'd*

Flycatcher was at Monte Bello OSP on 3 Apr (MDo). A surprise find on 20 Apr was a Tropical Kingbird at the Sunnyvale Golf Course (AR). Nine of our ten previous records have been in Oct and Nov. A second pair of Cassin's Kingbirds were found nesting in the south county outside Gilroy on 23 Apr (SCR) at the east end of Bloomfield Ave. Cassin's Kingbirds have had a toe-hold in the county since 1997, yet have not nested further north than the lands around Hwy 152.

### Vireos through Warblers

A singing Bell's Vireo briefly visited the marsh on private property just east of the Gold St Connector on 23 May but did not stay (RJ). Purple Martins away from the known nesting areas along the crest of the Santa Cruz Mountains included one drinking from Calero Reservoir on 16 Apr (PDU), three over Mount Hamilton on 24 Apr (SMi), and one at J Grant CP on 29 May (BB). A calling Bank Swallow over Morgan Hill on 8 Apr was the only record this spring (SCR). An eastern vagrant, a Tennessee Warbler was vigorously singing between 8 and 11 May at Ulistac NA (ChJ, DW, BM, m. ob.). Only 3 of the last 25 records of Tennessee Warbler have been in the spring. It was among the nice collection of migrants at Ulistac NA waiting for favorable weather to move on, which included a Nashville Warbler between 6 and 8 May (ChJ, m. ob.), a MacGillivray's Warbler on 5 and 7 May (GZ, RJ, MMR), a Hermit Warbler between 6 and 11 May (PDU, m. ob.), a hybrid Hermit x Townsend's Warbler on 14 May (KG), and a Yellow-breasted Chat between 7 and 9 May (DPe, m. ob.). Nashville Warblers moved through the area between 4 Apr (GZ) and 15 May (SFo), with a high count of three at Smith Creek on both 16 Apr (RJ, MJM, MMR) and 26 Apr (BM). MacGillivray's Warblers were noted on five dates between 16 Apr (MMR, MJM, RJ) and 26 May (WGB), with a high count of two on 16 Apr at Smith Creek. Hermit Warblers, all singles, began passing through on migration at Smith Creek on 23 Apr (ChJ, LiJ), with the last detected at Ulistac NA on 18 May (SFo). The immature male Hermit Warbler that spent the winter in the Willow Glen neighborhood of San

Jose resurfaced on 11 and 12 Apr (BM). Up along the Skyline Trail in Sanborn-Skyline CP, three were singing on 9 May in an area they're known to nest (GHa). The first Yellow-breasted Chat making its voice heard was along Llagas Creek downstream from Bloomfield Ave on private land on 23 Apr; a vocal Chat was there again on 20 May (both SCR). Upstream of Bloomfield Ave at the Gilroy SCRWA two Chats were found on 3 May (RWR). Singles were at Alamitos Creek near Leland HS on 28 Apr (JPa), J Grant CP on 1 May (AME), and Sunnvale Baylands on 4 May (AR). Three were found at J Grant CP on 21 May (KWn), bringing the total number of Chats up to nine individuals. The latest reports were of one at J Grant CP on 24 and 29 May (ChJ, BB). Other warblers of note were the first-of-spring Yellow Warbler on 9 Apr along the Alamitos Creek trail (JPa), a Palm Warbler on 6 Apr at the Sunnvale Golf Course (AR), and two Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warblers in suitable nesting habitat on 30 May along the Skyline Trail in Sanborn-Skyline CP (WGB).

### Sparrows through Goldfinches

While Black-chinned Sparrows have been tantalizingly close to the county line near Loma Prieta in the Santa Cruz Mountains, the territories are all in Santa Cruz county. On the east side of the county, a survey of the interior of Henry Coe SP in the Diablo Range yielded seven Black-chinned Sparrows on 15 May (MMR). Seven White-throated Sparrows at six locations stayed into April, and another lingered to 3 May along the Permanente Creek Trail near Charleston Road (AR). Ulistac NA hosted a male Painted Bunting, an eastern



vagrant that is our third record and first in the spring, from 8 to 10 May (RL, m. ob.). There may have been more rarities at Ulistac NA in the second week of May than anywhere else in N. California! Lazuli Buntings returned for the summer, with the first noted at Santa Teresa CP on 7 Apr (GZ, DN). A Yellow-headed Blackbird visited the Sunnyvale WPCP on 9 Apr (BW, SPa). Red Crossbills continued to be widely reported through the period, with the highest counts at Monte Bello OSP (94 on 16 May and 180 on 22 May (both GHa)) and at Lexington Reservoir (50 on 8 Apr (AR)). Fewer were found in the Diablo Range, where the high counts were six at the Hunting Hollow entrance to Henry Coe SP on 23 Apr (MDo et al.) and two at Smith Creek on 26 Apr (BM). The last large groups of Pine Siskins were a flock of 250 at Monte Bello OSP on 9 Apr (DPe) and 150 at Mount Hamilton on 22 Apr (EGa). Lawrence's Goldfinches remained scarce, with only five reports from the eastern part of the county and one report from Loma Prieta, totaling thirteen finches.

Observers: Heather Ambler (HA), Bob Bolles (BB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Will Brooks (WBr), Karen Burnson (KB), Mike Danzenbaker (MDa), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Pete Duntun (PDU), Al Eisner (AME), Leslie Flint (LFl), Sharon Forsyth (SFo), Craig Fosdick (CF), Elinor Gates (EGa), Kevin Gin (KG), Eric Goodill (EGo), Garth Harwood (GHa), Bob Hirt (BH), Marshall Iliff (MI), Richard Jeffers (RJ), Chris Johnson (ChJ), Lisa Johnson (LiJ), Raymond Liao (RL), Nateri Madavan (NM), Mike Mammoser (MJM), Brooke Miller (BM), Steve Miller (SMi), David Nickerson (DN), Michael Park (MP), Steven Patt (SPa), Janna Pauser (JPa), Don Pendleton (DPe), Rob Reiling (RWR), Alex Rinkert (AR), Mike Rogers (MMR), Steve Rottenborn (SCR), Jennifer Rycenga (JRy), Mike Shafto (MSh), Sachindev Shenoy (SSh), Byron Swift (BSw), Frank Vanslager (FV), Ann Verdi (AVe), Alie Victorine (AVi), Bill Walker (BW), Dave Weber (DW), Kathryn Wendel (KWn), Gina Zolotar (GZ)

Please send notice of rarities to  
Pete Duntun via email at  
pduntun@gmail.com

# SCVAS Classes and Excursions: Summer 2016

We are pleased to offer the following classes and excursions to our members and friends. Check back at the end of summer for more classes and trips. Information about our upcoming classes and field seminars is also available on our website at [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org).

## Birds of the Farallones with Alvaro's Adventures **REGISTRATION AND WAIT-LIST FULL**



### Summer Bird Days



Learn about the different birds at McClellan Ranch! For ages 6-11 years old; sign up for one - or both - sessions.

Registration closes **July 11th**.

Cost: \$20/child per session for SCVAS Members;  
\$25/child per session for non-members.

2nd and 3rd children are half price for families. Payment is due upon registration!

Session #1: Bird Identification: From Hawks to Hummingbirds, Wednesday July 20; 9AM-3PM

We'll have a live-hawk presentation discussing raptor adaptations, dissect owl pellets, and we'll contrast that with a watercolor art project of a hummingbird!

Session #2: "Backyard Birds," Thursday July 21; 9AM-3PM

We'll go on a Bird Walk looking at nest-boxes in use and learn what birds use the boxes. We'll then make our own nest-boxes and feeders. We'll take what we learned about birds and play some games!

Go to the Summer Bird Days webpage at: <http://www.scvas.org/index.php?page=text&id=summerbirddays> to register. Contact Kym, the Education Programs Specialist, at [programs@scvas.org](mailto:programs@scvas.org) with any questions.

## Save the Date: Wildlife Education Day is October 22nd!

### Youth Artists Wanted!

**Do you love to draw? Are you between the ages 5-18?**

You are invited to participate in our Annual Wildlife Education Day Logo Contest to get our event noticed!

The winning entry will be used on all publicity for Wildlife Education Day on October 22nd. First place winner will receive a certificate and an event T-shirt.

**Deadline for submission: Sept 6th**

Details available online - go to [www.scvas.org/Wildlife Festival](http://www.scvas.org/Wildlife Festival)



7th grader Julianne Chen  
last year's winning logo entry

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# Spring 2016 Birdathon Final Results

by the SCVAS Birdathon Committee



2016 Birdathon Dinner

The 2016 Spring Birdathon raised over **\$40,000**, funds that will help support our Education and Conservation Programs! There were 91 participants and 21 teams, 12 of which were guided teams and 9 of which were self-guided.

We extend a special thank you to our 2016 Spring Birdathon Prize Sponsors. These sponsors donated prizes to entice individuals to raise more money. Many thanks go to our Golden Eagle Sponsors who donated over \$600 in prizes: David McIntyre, Los Gatos Birdwatcher and Bob Hirt. We also thank our Great Egret Sponsors who donated between \$250 and \$600 in prizes: Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris, Hawaii Forest and Trail, Jack Cole, REI Outdoor School, Cooper-Garrod

Estate Vineyards, Deep Cliff Golf Course and Beauregard Vineyards. Many other great prizes were donated by others.

Ten participants raised over \$1000 with David McIntyre, Renée Polizotto, Steve Patt, Ginger Langdon-Lassagne and Bob Hirt at the top placing one through five, respectively. Team fundraising totals were impressive this year. In the 24 hour category, the Rock Wrens led by Bob Hirt, won first place by raising over \$7700. In the 4 hour category, first place went to the Wandering Kestrels led by Melanie O'Brien, who raised over \$5000. The Big Sit team, the Citizen Data Sets led by Mary Wizniewski, came in first place by raising over \$300.

In the competition to count the most bird species, the teams that counted the most in each category were: the Varied Twitchers led by Mike Rogers identifying 157 species (24 hour team); the Mean Green Birding Machine led by Rob Furrow identifying 105 species (4 hour team); and the Citizen Data Sets led by Mary Wizniewski identifying 59 species (Big Sit team). In the Photography Birdathon competition, the 24 hour team Plover Exposure led by Steve Tracey photographed 111 species. The best bird found by any team category was the Little Stint found by the Varied Twitchers.

Special thanks go to the Spring Birdathon Committee who worked tirelessly over the last 5 months to make this event a success: Renée Polizotto (chairperson), Julio Mulero, Bob Hirt, Debbie Thompson, Steve Patt, Mary Wizniewski and Ralph Schardt. The committee extends a special thanks to Carolyn Banbury, who provided the administrative support in record-keeping, which was very overwhelming at times.

Lastly, we appreciate each and every one of our participants and supporters. We cannot thank you enough! We look forward to having you participate in next year's Birdathon!

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*Director's Desk cont'd from page 1*



Christine Slocomb Zack

And on a much more positive note, our work with Google in the support of Egret Office Hours has provided many people from all over the world a glimpse of an amazing rookery located right on the Shoreline campus. The rookery provides nesting and breeding habitat for Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, and for the first time this year, Black-crowned Night Herons and a family of Red-shouldered Hawks. This year, Egret Office Hours expanded under a grant supported by Google and provided by Audubon California to include an Audubon-at-Home component, which includes bird walks, nest box installation, education seminars, and a spring festival. This program took "flight," and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, and we're looking forward to extending the program next year. If you have a chance, you should visit the rookery during Egret Office Hours, posted on our website. Our thanks to Audubon California and especially Google for providing sponsorship of this colony on their campus, as well as their employees' amazing enthusiasm for the project. That is all for now...

For information on Tricolored Blackbirds, visit the Audubon California website at [ca.audubon.org](http://ca.audubon.org) and search for Tricolored Blackbirds.

For more information on the Cormorants plight and how you can help, visit the Portland Audubon Chapter website at: [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org) and search for Cormorants.

# Thanks To All Of Our Birdathon Teams And Their Many Supporters For Another Fantastic Birdathon Year!

## A-focused Covey

Renate Birwe  
Chienwei Chang  
Doug and Gail Cheeseman  
Deanna Gomby  
Thomas Grey  
Mark Joing  
Michael and Brenda Kauf  
Vivek and Leena Khanzode  
Julio Mulero\*  
Dr. Julio D. Mulero  
Illona Polizotto  
Gary Silvanic

## Almaden Eagles

Leon and Janna Pauser  
Ann Verde\*

## Beginner's Luck Young Birders

Grace Abbott  
Lisa Arellano  
Morris Brown  
Alisa Brozinsky  
DJ and Mary Anne Chazan  
Doug and Gail Cheeseman  
Marta Curti  
Yuko Danovitz  
Meredith and Marco Einaudi  
Thomas Grey  
Mary Griffith  
Philip Gross  
Peter and Diane Hart\*  
Kanokwan Hosuwan  
Vivek and Leena Khanzode  
Pete and Sue LaTourrette  
Judy Huey and Leland Levy  
Marlene Macek  
Mayumi Maeda  
Yuko Malan  
Anthony Malutta  
Patrizia Owen  
Stephen and Sandra Pursell  
Sheila Segal  
Hana Shibuya  
David Stork  
Jeannine Thomas  
Burt Toma  
Jatin and Khyati Upadhyay  
Dieter and Susan Walz



"Bored" Not Boring Directors Team  
Ralph Schardt

## "Bored" not Boring Directors

Gary Campanella  
Doug and Gail Cheeseman  
Fred and Mary Helen Greaves  
Thomas Grey

*The Avocet 10*

Peter and Diane Hart  
Robert Hirt\*  
Sally Jackson  
Diana Koin  
Ann Latta  
Phil and Joan Leighton  
Gerald Mugnolo  
Sara Timby and John Rawlings  
Kandis Scott

## Citizen Data Sets Big Sit

Doug and Gail Cheeseman  
Janice and Roger Kang  
Vivek and Leena Khanzode  
Michael Mammoser  
Marcia Ruotolo  
Bill Walker and Mary Wisniewski\*

## Cupertino Creek Cruisers

John Bennett  
Dr. Barbara Bessey  
Martha Carpenter  
Doug and Gail Cheeseman  
Colleen and Gary Cunningham  
Ruthann Dicembrino  
Kevin Dixon and Kimberly Hughes  
Carol Emerich  
Ellexis Frantz  
Judith Gifford  
Ann Hepenstal  
William Hetrick  
Robert and Cheryl Huguenor  
Steve Patt and Deborah Jamison\*  
Jim and Kathy Johnson  
Roland and Patricia Kenny  
Deanna Kerby  
Kevin Kooiker  
Margaret MacNiven  
Charlotte Mankin  
Daniel McCranie  
William McHenry  
Robert and Janice McPeck  
Lorraine and Robert Pedretti  
Christina Peterson  
Vikki Recktenwald  
Annemarie Rosengreen  
Clysta Seney  
Glen Shaffer  
Steve McHenry and Carolyn Straub  
Judith Sullivan  
Robin Taubman  
The Barbara Bine Emerich Trust  
Sigal Tzoore

## Freckled Face Flickers

Marilyn Etherington  
Pete and Sue LaTourrette  
Rajesh Ramani  
David and Josephina Yu-Ping Shen  
Annette Teng\*  
Jonathon Chang and Jenny Tsai

## Mean Green Birding Machine

Kevin Gin  
Vivek and Leena Khanzode  
Robert Furrow\*  
Christopher O'Connell  
Bill Walker and Mary Wisniewski

## Persistent Picidae's

Juliette Bryson  
Doug and Gail Cheeseman



Fledglings Team  
Leena & Vivek Khanzode

Levy and Liora Gerzberg  
Thomas Grey  
Thomas and Elizabeth Hamel  
Robert Hirt  
Michael Hollars  
Sonali Jeste  
Ajit Khanzode  
Vivek and Leena Khanzode  
Torstein and Nancy Lund-Lund Living Trust  
Swapneel Mahajan  
Perry A. Maliuanag  
Michael Mammoser  
Mark Mc Cormick  
Angel More  
Julio Mulero  
Alex Nazari  
Melanie and Tom O'Brien  
Jennifer Panter  
Richa Pathak  
Pati Rouzer\*  
Steve P. Pollock  
Cybele Renault  
Suhail Sheikh  
Suhita Shirodkar  
David Tomb  
Catherine Trejo  
Srimathi Venkataraman  
Luis Villablanca  
Bill Walker and Mary Wisniewski  
Patricia Wolff  
Sunia Yang  
Steven Zamek

## Freckled Face Flickers

Marilyn Etherington  
Pete and Sue LaTourrette  
Rajesh Ramani  
David and Josephina Yu-Ping Shen  
Annette Teng\*  
Jonathon Chang and Jenny Tsai

## Mean Green Birding Machine

Kevin Gin  
Vivek and Leena Khanzode  
Robert Furrow\*  
Christopher O'Connell  
Bill Walker and Mary Wisniewski

## Persistent Picidae's

Juliette Bryson  
Doug and Gail Cheeseman

Michael P. Duffy  
Dale and Jane Jordan  
Lisa Myers\*  
Ralph and Julie Schardt  
Larry Spivak  
Lilly Yoshida

## Plover Exposure

Raju Bhupatiraju  
Steven Tracey\*

## Rock Wrens

Christopher Basanese  
Doug and Gail Cheeseman  
Joe Dew  
Alan Eisner  
Robert Enns  
Thomas Grey  
Janet Hall  
Stanley and Ardis Hirt  
Robert Hirt\*  
Dennis Hunter  
James Hunter  
Vivek and Leena Khanzode  
Pete and Sue LaTourrette  
Bruce Ledesma  
Calvin and Lucy Lou  
Margaret Macres  
David McIntyre  
Frank Montgomery  
George Peyton  
Don and Dee Price  
Byron Swift  
Scott Thomsen  
Catherine Trejo  
Linda Vallee  
Charles Van Orden  
Bryan Von Lossberg  
Dieter and Susan Walz



Rock Wrens Team  
Bob Hirt

## Shutterbirds

Vivek and Leena Khanzode  
Steve Patt\*  
Bill Walker and Mary Wisniewski

## Snipe Hunters

Emily Arcolino  
Richard Blade  
Rose Brown  
Dorothy Caldwell  
Doug and Gail Cheeseman  
Irene Cortinaz  
Marilynn Galloway  
Richard Gaskill M.D.  
George Haller  
Linda Sue Johnson  
Lynette Key  
Jane and Donald Krejci

Jane Manning  
John and Frances Morse  
Carol C. North  
Rick and Laurie West Roberts\*  
Teresa Scagliotti  
James Thomas  
Jim and Glow-Rene T. Tomich  
Towne Business and Tax Services  
Catherine Trejo  
Charles and Camille Wade  
George Wortiska  
Martha Wright  
Virginia Wright  
Stephen Zilles  
Dagmar Zimdahl

## St. Anthony Ranchers

Ellen Bateman  
Doug and Gail Cheeseman  
Linda Sue Johnson  
James Johnson  
Pete and Sue LaTourrette  
Jim and Sue Liskovec\*  
Mary Murphy  
Genny Hall Smith  
Catherine Trejo  
James and Kristi Wiley

## Team DeDUCKtions

Mary Ann Allan  
Margaret Barron  
Doug and Gail Cheeseman  
Matthew and Kelly Dodder\*  
Edwin Ehmke  
Nancy Flowers  
Vivek and Leena Khanzode  
Kathleen Lee  
Marilyn Kay Matthews  
Andrew Melnick  
Brooke Miller  
Thomas Sartor  
Tate and Curtis Snyder  
Dieter and Susan Walz

## Ultrabirders

Deborah Chan  
Jason Chan  
Dr. Richard A. Patt  
Steven Patt\*

## Varied Twitchers

Doug and Gail Cheeseman  
Richard and Christine Jeffers  
Michael and Alma Rogers\*  
G. Marc Simmell

## Wandering Kestrels

Bass Angler Magazine  
Kevin Cathey  
Doug and Gail Cheeseman  
John Comiskey  
Mary Foster-Smith  
Bino George  
Thomas Grey  
Vivek and Leena Khanzode  
Marion Krause  
Barry and Ginger Langdon-Lassagne

Pete and Sue LaTourrette  
 Karen Marnach  
 Melanie and Tom O'Brien\*  
 Sam Page  
 Steve and Debbie Thompson  
 John and Martha Wills  
 Robin Winterlin

## Birdathon Birds

A "snapshot" of what the teams saw and captured this year!

### Wrong Terns

Doug and Gail Cheeseman  
 Stanley and Elaine Gould\*  
 Gary Govola  
 John and Freddy Howell  
 Jerry and Ginny Kaminski  
 Sharon Mathog  
 Lillian Simon

### General Birdathon Donations

Michael P. Duffy  
 Kirsten Holmquist  
 Earle Jones  
 Nateri Madavan  
 Daja Phillips  
 Randall Sage  
 Sameer Vaidya  
 Charles Von Rospach

\*Denotes Team Leader

**This year's  
 Birdathon raised  
 over**

**\$40,000!!!**

**We are so grateful  
 for all of the  
 support and  
 contributions!**



Lewis' Woodpecker  
 Fledglings  
 Leena & Vivek Khanzode



Common Yellowthroat  
 "Bored" Not Boring Directors  
 Ralph Schardt



Loggerhead Shrikes  
 Fledglings  
 Leena & Vivek Khanzode



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
 "Bored" Not Boring Directors  
 Tom Grey



American Avocets  
 Beginner's Luck Young Birders  
 Peter Hart



Mallard & Ducklings  
 "Bored" Not Boring Directors  
 Tom Grey

## 2016 Spring Birdathon Prize Sponsors

SCVAS is pleased to promote our generous prize sponsors who help make our Spring Birdathon so successful in raising money for our youth environmental education and conservation programs. Please visit [www.scvas.org/birdathon](http://www.scvas.org/birdathon) for complete Birdathon information. Thank you so much for your contributions and support!

Beauregard Vineyards  
 Birdwatcher's Diary App  
 Bob Hirt  
 Bob Power  
 California Academy of Sciences  
 Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris  
 Children's Discovery Museum  
 Cooper-Garrod Winery  
 David McIntyre

David Wimpfheimer  
 Deep Cliff Golf Course  
 Exploratorium  
 Jack Cole  
 Jack Laws  
 Los Gatos Birdwatcher  
 Mary Wisnewski  
 Monterey Bay Aquarium  
 Noodles & Co.

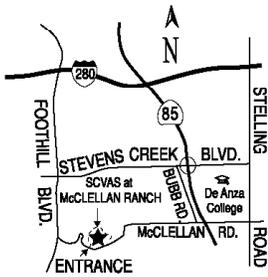
Paicines Ranch  
 Hawaii Forest and Trail  
 REI Outdoor School  
 Renee Polizotto  
 SCVAS Nature Shop  
 Golden Gate Park  
 Steve Patt  
 Stevens Creek Software



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[www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org)

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## 2016 New Members of SCVAS

*Those who joined April 1st-June 1st.  
 We look forward to a great year with your support!*

Sylvia Alderman	Lindy Fung	E.V. and Charlotte Niemeyer
Mary Ann Allan	William and Marlene Gordon	Margaret and Fred Parkes
Taylor Ploy and Amanda Lott	Ted and Mona Rebecca	Enid Pearson
Michael Armer	Guarino	William Pelletier
Don Arnold	Roxanne Handler	Andrea Perreault
Cynthia Berg	Abigail Jaworski	Melissa Poly
Lesley Boncich	Sarah Jonnalagadda	Sandra Prietz
Barbara Boyington	Carol Klemstein	Gail Richardson
Gloria Burd	Jennifer Knoth	Marcia Ruotolo
Mary Buxton	Francis and Jeanne Lewis	Paul Stevens
James Chou	Kenneth and Sally Lillis	Michael Voydanoff
Wilma Chu	Chris MacIntosh	Xiaoju Wand
Susan Dansker	Gloria McCanless	Margaret Wheeler
Maureen Draper	Janice A. Mitchell	Mikhail and Alice Zhuk
Marilyn Etherington	Tracy and Bob Neher	Frank and Karin
Mary and David Fullerton	Nhan Nguyen	Zimmermann

**YOU are invited: join today!**

## Go Paperless!



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

- Save resources - eNewsletters save trees, postage, fuel (and more)!
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Contact the SCVAS office at [scvas@scvas.org](mailto:scvas@scvas.org) to start your paper-free membership today!



### STAFF

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#### Office Manager

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#### Burrowing Owl Conservation

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#### Office Fax

(408) 252-2850

#### Office E-mail

[scvas@scvas.org](mailto:scvas@scvas.org)

#### Website

[www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org)

**MONTHLY SPEAKER SERIES** are held on the third Wednesday of each month except July, August and December and are open to the public.

#### NATURE SHOP HOURS

**Monday - Friday**

**10 AM - 5 PM**

**Saturday**

**10 AM - 2 PM**

Please call (408) 252-3747 for special requests.

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

Details available on the SCVAS website.

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

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Bob Hirt

##### Vice President

Diane Hart

##### Treasurer

Bob Hirt, acting

##### Secretary

Joan Leighton

#### DIRECTORS

Melanie O'Brien

Peter Hart

Tom Grey

'13-'16

'15-'18

'15-'18

Vivek Khanzode

Gabrielle Feldmen

Marlene Macek

'14-'17

'15-'17

'16-'18