

Photo: Brooke Miller

Welcome to the **Avocet Update** for October 2020. This monthly email to our members highlights upcoming events, field trips, environmental alerts, and other items of interest for the coming month. We have exciting offerings to share, including new birding locations, an exciting Speaker Series and an opportunity to help Coyote Valley.

~Matthew Dodder, Executive Director

AVOCET Annual Report NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE:

Download your copy [here](#).

Watch the recorded annual meeting [here](#).



LOCAL CELEBRITY:



Vayun Tiwari:

Vayun was awarded a prestigious photography award by National Audubon. See the full story in the [Mercury News](#) and our [site](#).

Vayun will also be speaking at the Bay Area Bird Photographers meeting on [October 7](#).

ONLINE SPEAKER SERIES:



Luis Villablanca:

Birds of the Sierra Nevada

A world traveller, accomplished photographer, and long time member of Bay Area Bird Photographers, Luis' images represents his determination to live his passion. His awe-inspiring presentation will focus on the Sierra Nevada and the spectacular bird life found there, as well as the challenges a photographer faces when trying to get that perfect image.

**October 21 (Wednesday)
7:00-8:30 PM via Zoom**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

SILENT AUCTION:

Don't miss your chance to bid on art, books and miscellaneous items in our [silent auction](#)!
Bidding has been extended to October 4!

Bidding started at 7pm Saturday September 19, 2020

BID ON AN ITEM

Note: Bidding is updated manually, so it may take up to 24 hours for your bid to be visible below.

PRINTS AND ORIGINAL ARTWORK ([SEE LOT ITEM DESCRIPTIONS](#))



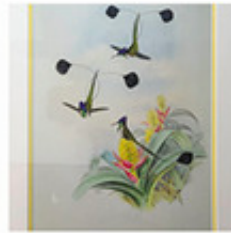
#101 bid \$150 (1)



#102 bid \$150 (1)



#103 bid \$175 (3)



#104 bid \$75 (1)



#105 bid \$25 (0)

BACKYARD BIRDS:



Photo: Dave Zittin

Learn **what to look for now** in your yard, and read one backyard birder's **recent highlights** (including a Black-headed Grosbeak) in our new series: [Notes and Tips from a Backyard Birder](#) by Julie Amato

Meet the **Backyard Bird of the Month**: [House Finch](#) by Dave Zittin

Backyard birding is a wonderful way to learn about birds, connect with nature, and have fun! Check out our website for new content about [backyard birding in Santa Clara County](#), a [list of common backyard birds](#), and more.

Tell us what you're seeing in your yard! Send your notes, photos, and sound clips to backyardbirds@scvas.org. We'll feature a selection of your submittals on our website.

MORE SELF-GUIDED TRIPS:



Photo: Laura Coatney

Since we can't go out birding as a group right now, we've come up with some great ideas for places you can bird on your own or with your household. October is a special time for Shorebirds, Flycatchers, Warblers, and Sparrows as they pass through our area or settle in for the winter. Check them out the following self-guided field trip locations for opportunities to catch some Fall migration.

- **Bayfront:** [Shorebird Spectacle at New Chicago Marsh](#) by Mike Ambrose
- **East Hills:** [A Walk Around Sandy Wool Lake at Ed R. Levin County Park in Fall/Winter \(Accessible\)](#) by Laura Coatney
- **South County:** [Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve in Fall/Winter](#) by Dani Christensen
- **Urban Area:** [McClellan Ranch Preserve in Fall/Winter \(Accessible\)](#) or [Reserva Natural del Rancho McClellan en Otoño/Invierno \(Accesible\)](#) by Unice Chang and Eve Meier
- **West Hills:** [Pearson-Arastradero Preserve in Fall/Winter](#) or [Reserva Pearson-Arastradero en el otoño-invierno](#) by Luis Villablanca

Photos needed:

SCVAS needs your photos! If you are a member and don't mind sharing your high resolution photos with us, we are looking for photos of adult gulls, wintering ducks, Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, Ravens and any of our backyard birds. If we like your photo, we will use it on our webpage! Email Eve Meier at scvasfieldtrips@gmail.com.

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 scvasfieldtrips@gmail.com.

ADVOCACY UPDATE:



Photo: Matthew Dodder

Restoration of seasonal wetlands in Coyote Valley is only possible if Measure T passes! Please help us promote measure T and join us for a fun Phone Banking event on October 8th!

Measure T, which will renew funding for the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, will be on the ballot for most Santa Clara County voters this November. Volunteers are needed to help get the word out about this important ballot measure to protect and restore local open space in Coyote Valley and beyond.

Please join SCVAS and CNPS Santa Clara Valley Chapter for a [phone banking event](#) on Thursday, October 8th from 5:00-8:00 to help get the word out about this important ballot measure to protect local open space! We'll join together on Zoom to hear from Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager, Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority about the importance of [Measure T](#), followed by a brief Q & A, and then we'll call supportive voters to make sure they know to vote for Measure T.

With door-to-door canvassing on hold due to COVID-19, phone banking is a critical tool. Virtual phone banking is fun, especially when you do it with others. No previous phone banking experience is required. Even if you can't stay for the entire time, please join us for the presentation. Click this [link](#) to register.

Hope to see you there!

Please contact shani@scvas.org if you have questions, or want to help.

ONE MORE THING:



Did you know? You can provide much needed support to SCVAS by signing up for Amazon Smile. It's easy and costs you nothing. It's a small thing that can make a big difference, especially as we approach the holiday season and you may be using Amazon for your gift purchases. Find out more here: <https://scvas.org/amazon-smile>



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