

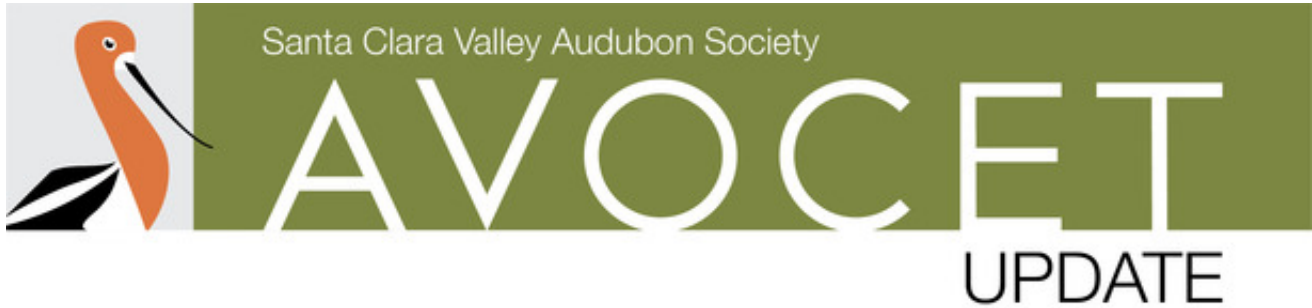
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Great Egrets: Tom Grey

Welcome to the **AVOCET Update** for June, 2021. Spring has been an exciting time for us all, but it is nearly over. We've seen a much-anticipated loosening of COVID restrictions, however most of them were still in effect during our annual Birdathon. No matter. We still had an amazing time and we'll be celebrating this year's triumphant event with an online Awards Program you won't want to miss! We can look forward to holding field trips again soon also... We're celebrating Pride Month with our guest speaker, Jennifer Rycenga, President of Sequoia Audubon. She'll share her thoughts on equity, diversity and inclusion through community science as well as her work with the LGBTQ+ community and the highly acclaimed Queer Birders of North America. Finally, the summer issue of the AVOCET Quarterly is now available for download! All that, and an apparently good year to see Lawrence's Goldfinch in our County. So get out there, enjoy the birds, the beautiful weather and the friendship we all share.



Birdathon Prize Ceremony
Saturday, May 29 7:00-8:30 PM ([via Zoom](#))

Join us for our annual Birdathon Awards Event where we recognize the top fundraisers, the team that found the most species, best bird and much more! We will have quizzes, prizes, and will be sharing the best of our birding stories from this Birdathon season!

[RSVP Here](#)



Peggy and Jennifer: Robert Siegel

Speaker Series presents:

Jennifer Rycenga

Queer Birds: Community Inclusion, Community Building, and Community Science
Wednesday, June 2, 7:00 PM ([via Zoom](#))

In the early 2000s, LGBT rights were under attack; there was no marriage equality, and LGBTQ people often felt unsafe in the field. To build a veritable, ongoing community, a group of LGBTQ birders banded together to start what is now called QBNA - Queer Birders of North America. Local Bay Area birder Jennifer Rycenga spearheaded the west coast organizing efforts for this group, which has now flourished for almost two decades, with biennial birding trips both nationally and abroad. The community built up through QBNA has always been open to all allies of the cause, and has been the occasion for genuine solidarity with many straight birders. This model of open, accepting community parallels the 21st century growth in Community Science projects like eBird, iNaturalist, and the BioBlitz movement. This talk will look at the history of LGBTQ birders and QBNA in particular, and the rapid growth of community science in the Bay Area, as examples of how birding can create and sustain diverse communities of people.

Jennifer serves as the Board President of our sister chapter, Sequoia Audubon. Jennifer teaches at San José State University in Humanities.

COYOTE CREEK WATERSHED TOURS

CREEKS ARE FOR ALL

Expanding diverse users and voices for nature through Queer Birders and elected service

Wednesday, June 2, 2021
10-11am PST
Free Virtual Event

Photo: Jennifer Rycenga

Photo: Deb Kramer

Coyote Creek Watershed Tour: Creeks for All **Wednesday, June 2, 10:00AM**

SCVAS is celebrating the start of Pride month with some creek exploration with our friends from Open Space Authority, Sequoia Audubon, and Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful! Presenters Shay Franco-Clausen and Jennifer Rycenga will share their experiences discovering nature as we stroll along beautiful Coyote Creek.

[RSVP here](#)

The AVOCET

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Summer 2021 • Vol 69 Num 3

Henry Coe State Park, Hunting Hollow Entrance Matthew Dodder

The Summer AVOCET is finally here!
[Download it here.](#)



SCVAS 2021 Board Election

Take a minute to cast your vote in SCVAS's 2021 Board Election! [Read up on the ballot here](#) and [submit your votes here](#).



Stevens Creek View: Mary Ann Allan

June Self-Guided Field Trips

- [California Gull Colony](#) (Mountain View, Accessible) by Mary Ann Robertson
- [Alum Rock Park](#) (east San Jose, partially Accessible) by Chris Johnson
- [Villa Montalvo](#) (Saratoga) by Eve Meier
- [Stevens Creek County Park](#) (Cupertino, Accessible) by Mary Ann Allan

Visit our webpage to see [past months' recommendations](#) or use our [index](#) to see all of our recommendations.

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 fieldtrips@scvas.org.



Baby Birds!

It's that time of the year - baby birds are here! Have you **found a baby bird on the ground**, and are you wondering what to do?

Sometimes baby birds need our help, but often, they don't. It's important to allow wild birds to raise their young, and only intervene when necessary. Read our new [Baby Birds page](#), and check out our decision tree, to **find out if a bird needs your help**, or if you should leave it alone.

Baby birds go through a number of developmental stages. Can you tell the difference between a **hatchling, nestling, and fledgling**? Learn ID tips on our [new page](#), and enjoy all the pictures of those cute baby birds!



Western Bluebird juveniles: Carter Gasiorowski

Backyard Birds

Look around your neighborhood, and you're sure to see a **baby bird** or two now. Find out what baby birds - and bird parents - our Backyard Birder is seeing, and how to **tell the babies apart from the adults**, in [Baby Bird Bonanza!](#)

The **Mourning Dove** is our featured backyard bird for June. Learn how to **attract this bird to your yard**, and how to tell it apart from other doves and pigeons, in our [Backyard Bird of the Month](#) article.

Nesting hummingbirds, baby titmice, hungry waxwings, and more! Find out what **birds our members and friends** are seeing in their yards and neighborhoods in the latest edition of [All Around Town](#), our monthly round-up of backyard bird sightings.

What birds are in your yard or neighborhood? Send your notes and photos to backyardbirds@scvas.org and we'll feature them in the next [All Around Town](#).



Conservation Corner

[Overfelt Gardens Plan Survey #2](#)

Overfelt Gardens Park was designed to be a beautiful, peaceful, and regenerating place. Lakes, a native plant garden, a native oaks forest and Chinese heritage structures give this San Jose park a unique glow - it is truly a gem. But years of drought and lagging maintenance took their toll and the gardens assumed a somewhat tired look. Despite the neglect, bioblitzes we conducted at Overfelt Garden in 2017 and 2018 discovered 194 species in only a few hours of nature exploration at the park! Please read our report [here](#).

Now, San Jose is in the process of creating a Master Plan to rejuvenate, revitalize, and activate the park. Information about the proposed themes for the new Master Plan are available on the City's website [here](#) and new SURVEY is available [here](#). You can also learn more about the information about the Chinese Cultural Garden [here](#) and [here](#).

We hope you find a few minutes to take the [survey](#) and ask for natural, peaceful areas to be restored and expanded. Also, we hope you find time to visit Overfelt Gardens!

More on iNaturalist:

[9/23/2017](#)

[9/21/2018](#)

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