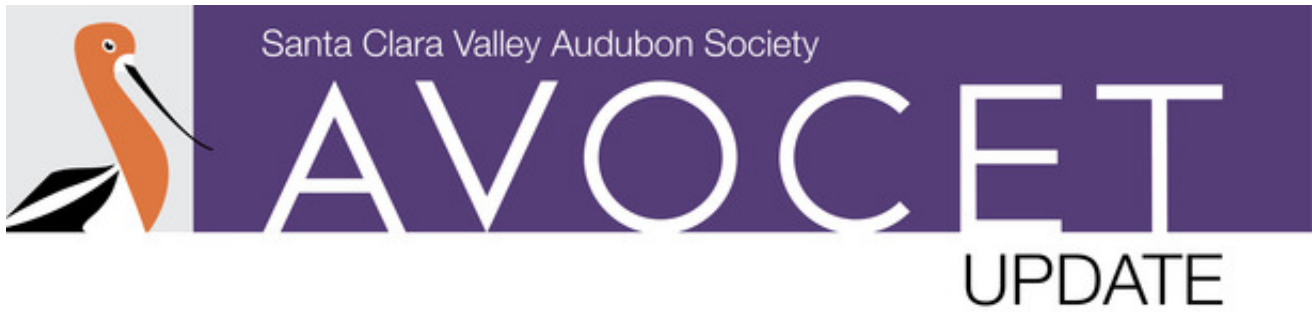


[Click to view this email in a browser](#)



## April 2022

It is with profound sadness we announce that on Tuesday, March 22 we lost **Doug Cheeseman**. He was a long-time supporter of SCVAS and loving husband to **Gail Cheeseman** who passed away just four months earlier. We send our love and heartfelt condolences to Doug & Gail's family and remember the many ways both Doug and Gail shared their experience, warmth, and generosity with us all! Read the family's announcement on the [Cheeseman Safari Tours website](#).

~Matthew Dodder, Executive Director

---



Black-chinned Hummingbird: Brooke Miller

## Annual Spring Birdathon is Now Open!

This past weekend, the Annual Spring Birdathon opened officially. For the next few weeks, teams of all kinds will be venturing out in support of **SCVAS's Education programs**. Help the effort by pledging your support (or joining!) any one of the many available teams. There are teams that travel the entire county in search of the most birds, teams that stay in one place for a big sit, teams that are organized by young birders, teams that are made up of the rest of us, teams that paint or draw, and teams that are fully accessible. There are also teams that operate for 24 hours and others that keep it to a more reasonable 4 hours... In other words, there's no reason for not joining in! For more details and a full list of ways to get involved, visit the [Birdathon webpage](#).

During the event, find the wonderful stories from each team on our [Birdathon Stories page](#).

---



**Speaker Series (this week!)**  
**Edwin Scholes**  
**on Cornell's Birds of Paradise Project**  
**March 30, 2022 at 7:00PM (via Zoom)**

Edwin Scholes, with photographer Tim Laman, became the first ornithologist to document all 39 species of birds of paradise, famed for their outlandish coloring and bizarre mating dances. He is a leading authority on their behavior and evolution. Scholes' and Laman's work is the basis of the National Geographic Museum's "Amazing Avian Evolution" exhibit. Scholes works as the biodiversity video curator at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, New York. **This event was originally scheduled for January.**

[Register Here](#)



## **Speaker Series**

**Holly Merker**

**Author of Ornithery**

**April 20, 2022 at 7:00PM (via Zoom)**

Holly is cancer survivor who credits Ornithery in helping save her life. Holly used mindful birdwatching - Ornithery - as a powerful tool in fighting cancer. She credits Ornithery as a frontline weapon in her arsenal of tools in restoring and maintaining good health, both mentally and physically. During the cancer treatment and recovery, Holly spent time watching birds in order to detach from the emotional and physical crisis that comes with a cancer diagnosis. Watching birds grounded her, and gave her a renewed perspective on life and survival. She believes that anyone can benefit from Ornithery if they are open to it, and she's made it her life mission to share this perspective.

[Register Here](#)

---



Green-tailed Towhee: Dave Zittin

## **Special Event**

### **Field Trip to Yuba Pass area of the Sierra Nevada Mountains**

#### **Leaders: Dave and Floy Zittin**

The Sierra Nevada Mountains offer many unique environments and opportunities to see bird species that are uncommon in Santa Clara County. In June birds have migrated to their mountain nesting areas. Migrants and endemics are singing and generally active, making them easier to find.

This field trip will require two nights in the area: **Monday, June 13** and **Tuesday, June 14**. Monday is a travel day. We will meet Tuesday morning for a full day of birding. Wednesday, June 15, will be a three-quarter day of birding ending in mid-afternoon so that you have time to drive home that day if you wish to do so.

For more information and to sign up: <https://scvas.ticketbud.com/yuba-pass-2022>

---



SCVAS field trip at Stanford Arboretum led by Adam Burnett

## Field Trips

**In-person** field trips for April 1 - May 4 post on **March 30**. Locations covered include Ed Levin, Coyote Creek, Henry Coe, Ranch San Antonio and more! Visit [field trips](#) for more information and to register.

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](mailto:fieldtrips@scvas.org) for details.

---



Wilson's Warbler: Caroline Lambert

## Self-Guided Field Trips

We have added two new April recommendations to our collection:

- [Sanborn County Park \(Spring\): John Nicholas Trail](#) (Los Gatos) by Luis Villablanca
- [Shannon Valley Open Space Preserve](#) (Los Gatos) by Ann Verdi

For all of our **April 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](mailto:fieldtrips@scvas.org).

---



American Robin: Deanne Tucker

## Backyard Birding

**Backyard Bird of the Month** - Our featured backyard bird for April is the American Robin. These birds have a dark head and back, and an orange-red breast that varies from pale to a deeply saturated color. In the winter, you will often see these birds in flocks, gorging themselves on berries and other fruits. Listen for their “cheerily, cheer up!” song, which is sure to brighten your day.

**All Around Town** - Winter foragers, spring nesters, and the Great Backyard Bird Count: the past month highlighted the amazing diversity of birds in our yards and neighborhoods. Find out what birds our members and friends have seen lately in our newest backyard birding report.

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





Oak Titmouse: Steve Zamek

## Spring Birding Tips

The spring nesting season has arrived. It can be deeply moving to observe birds as they build nests, incubate eggs, and care for their young. If you are lucky enough to have a nest near your home, enjoy the experience!

At the same time, bear in mind that breeding birds are highly vulnerable to human disturbance. Here are some tips to increase the likelihood of nest success for the birds in your yard and neighborhood:

### **Nest safety**

When observing nests, give the birds plenty of space, and follow these [best practices to keep them safe](#) (see the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's [code of conduct](#) for nest monitoring as well). Avoid approaching the nest at critical times, do your best not to attract predators, and don't touch the birds or eggs.

### **Nesting materials**

Many materials are hazardous to birds, like filaments (hair, fur, yarn, string) and chemically-treated items (dryer lint, yard trimmings treated with fertilizer or pesticides). If you want to provide nesting material, put out only safe natural materials like dry, untreated twigs or leaves, or grow native plants, so birds can forage for nesting material and food. Synthetics should be avoided altogether. Here's an [article about safe nesting materials](#) from the National Audubon Society, as well as a short list of do's and don'ts from the Cornell Lab.

### **Baby birds out of the nest**

If you find a baby bird alone on the ground, does it need help? Sometimes yes, but often no. Learn how young birds develop, find out when they do and don't need your assistance, and consult our decision-making flow chart on our [Baby Birds web page](#).

---



California Newt: Merav Vonshak

## Conservation Corner

### **Giulianna's Op-ed on the Newts of Alma Bridge Rd.**

Giulianna, our Environmental Advocacy Assistant, wrote an op-ed published in the Los Gatos to raise awareness about the declining newt population on Alma Bridge Rd near Lexington Reservoir in Los Gatos. If you are interested in helping monitor the newts, please visit the [Newt Patrol](#), a volunteer-based group led by Dr. Merav Vonshak. Read the article [here](#).

### **ACTION NEEDED: Valco in Cupertino is now The Rise and it's A LOT of glass**

On the [project's website](#), please scroll down to "Comments" and enter:

"Please adhere to the City of Cupertino's Bird Safety and Dark Sky ordinance. Please turn all lights off inside office buildings after 11PM"

### **Check Your Inbox for Upcoming Action Items!**

Look out for upcoming Action Alerts! Midpen Open Space will soon be considering a new electric bike trail policy, the Palo Alto Parks and Recreation Commission will be discussing the new Baylands Comprehensive Conservation Plan, and Cupertino's City Council will be considering changes to Blackberry Farm Golf Course. We need voices like yours to speak up in public meetings and write to your elected officials to protect birds and their habitat!

### **Recruiting Palo Alto Volunteers**

Do you live or work in Palo Alto and are looking for ways to take action in your community? We are looking for volunteers to advocate for the natural community in Palo Alto! We need strong voices to speak up at public meetings to raise awareness about lighting, bird safety, and habitat protections. If you are interested in this opportunity, please reach out to Shani Kleinhaus at [advocate@scvas.org](mailto:advocate@scvas.org).

### **Win! Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) New Mitigation Policy**

The Midpen Board of Directors approved a new mitigation policy. In a letter we submitted with Green Foothills, California Native Plant Society Santa Clara Valley Chapter, Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, and CLEAN South Bay, we asked the new policy to include evaluation criteria for any third-party mitigation proposals - and the Board unanimously approved our proposed change! The new policy also includes a requirement that "the project and mitigation will likely result in a long-term benefit to the affected resource," meaning third-

party mitigation proposals must result in a net benefit to the environment.

---



Follow us on  
- [Twitter](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Instagram](#) - [YouTube](#) -

---

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

---

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society  
22221 McClellan Rd  
Cupertino, California 95014  
US

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

