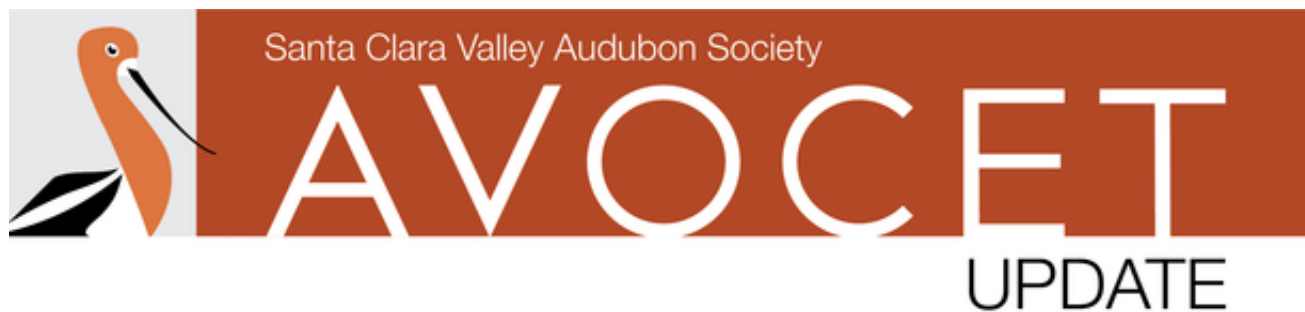


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Least Bittern: Peter Hart

August 2022

What an exciting July we had! We saw our first EVER breeding of Least Bitterns at Calero Lake and they delighted crowds of birders eager to get a new county bird. Our Black Tern continued to be seen between Shoreline Lake and various nearby ponds—in full alternate plume, no less. Oh, I also forgot the brilliant male Rose-breasted Grosbeak that was discovered by Alison Turner during one of our SCVAS field trips. July is definitely a hard act to follow, but I have confidence August will compare nicely. Shorebirds should begin pouring into the county after their stint in the arctic (that pun was definitely intended...). So get out there and start Shorebirding! But don't forget, our Silent Auction will end on August 6 at midnight, so be sure to place a bid to support our Chapter, and take home a fantastic original work of art! There are also new field trips planned, a few self-guided trips, our fabulous Backyard Birding and All Around Town updates to enjoy, and we will also offer a brand new class on Raptors, just in time for fall migration!

~Matthew Dodder, Executive Director




Screen shot from the event showing our new Board President, Bill Walker, on keyboard

Annual Event Video

July 23, 7:00PM (via Zoom)

If you missed our Annual Event the other night, never fear! The full recording (including some technical difficulties during the first few minutes, has been posted on our YouTube channel and our home page. Rewatch the jazz performance by incoming Board President, Bill Walker, highlights from this past year, an interview with Bob Hirt and Carter Gasiorowski, the launch of our Silent Auction, and a short presentation on late-summer Shorebirds.





[Watch the video here](#)



2022 SCVAS Annual Event Silent Auction

🏠 ❤️ 14 ⭐ 0 All Items (16)
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All Items (1-16 of 16) Ends: Aug 6, 2022 - Midnight PDT

			
<p>Cinnamon Teal Original woodcarving by Jack Cole \$100.00 value: \$100.00 bids: 0</p>	<p>Northern Pintail Original woodcarving by Jack Cole \$300.00 value: \$100.00 bids: 3</p>	<p>Towhees Original watercolor by John Muir Laws \$150.00 value: \$125.00 bids: 1</p>	<p>Warblers Original watercolor by John Muir Laws \$150.00 value: \$125.00 bids: 1</p>

Silent Auction

Don't miss your chance to bid on some of the 16 original paintings & wood carvings by well-known local artists, John Muir Laws and Jack Cole. Support SCVAS and take home a spectacular piece of original art! All proceeds will support SCVAS programs and publications. Don't wait too long, the Auction ENDS at **midnight on August 6!**

[Visit the auction here](#)



Shorebirds *Lite*

To prepare folks for the incoming wave of Shorebirds, Matthew Dodder gave a brief rundown of what to expect in the months of July and August. This mini-class focused on problem pairs –Shorebirds that can easily be confused with each other.

[Watch the video here](#)



Raptor Class

Monday at 7:00 PM (via zoom)
August 15, 22, 29

Birds of Prey are among the most evocative and recognizable birds in the world. From national flags to corporate identities, they can be found everywhere and invariably communicate strength and confidence. Yet, within this great collection of predators there are just as many differences as there are similarities—leading one to wonder, how do we tell them all apart. This 3-part class led by Matthew Dodder, will explore that question with a deep dive into the 22 species that have been found in Santa Clara County from the tiny American Kestrel to the colossal and critical endangered California Condor. Special attention will be paid to difficult-to-identify pairs such as our two Accipiters, immature Eagles, and dark morph Buteos. Our normal schedule SCVAS field trips will provide many opportunities to view the species covered in this class and recommendations of where else to look for these wonderful birds will be discussed.

[Register Here](#)



Birding Basics Class

SCVAS is collaborating with the City of Cupertino to bring in-person classes to McClellan Ranch. Sessions will run September through December and include one evening presentation and a daytime field trip with SCVAS staff. These classes are geared toward absolute beginner birders. If you or someone you know would like to join the fun, please visit [Cupertino's website](#) to register.

Description: From enormous Eagles and Vultures to tiny Warblers and Goldfinches, this 2-part class will provide you with the basic knowledge and skills you need to recognize our local birds. If you are already a birder, this refresher will improve your current skills. You will learn how to find and identify the common birds of Cupertino as well as other nearby birding locations. In Session 1, students will learn essential binocular and field guide use, and the fundamentals of bird identification. In Session 2 students will enjoy a guided field trip to McClellan Ranch where they will practice finding and identifying local birds with our expert instructors.



A July field trip to Charleston Slough led by Allen Royer and Sarah Chan

Field Trips

In-person field trips for August post on **July 28**. Locations covered include Stanford Arboretum, Vasona, and Don Edwards. Visit [field trips](#) for more information and to register. NEW! To help more people have a chance at getting a spot on our very popular field trips, please limit your sign-ups to 2 trips per month.

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 for details.



Forster's Tern: Carter Gasiorowski

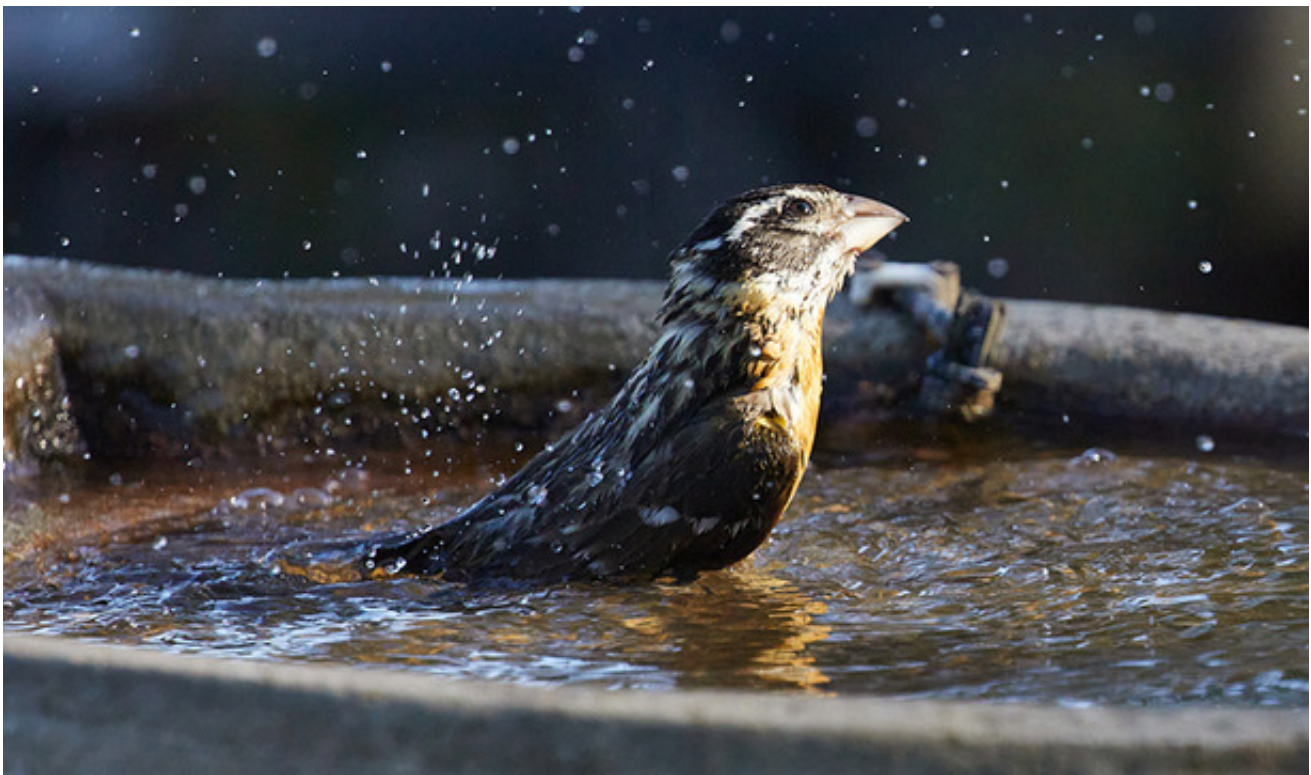
Self-Guided Field Trips

In August along the bay, the phalaropes and terns continue to delight and the shorebirds are returning from their northern nesting grounds. Inland, now's the time to enjoy our shady creekside trails where we can enjoy the many young birds that are around.

- Bayfront: [Pond A2E and Crittenden Marsh: Totally Terns and Snowy Plovers Too](#)
- East Hills: [Alum Rock Park: Creekside Birding](#)
- South County: [Anderson Lake County Park: Coyote Creek Nature Trail](#)
- Urban Areas: [Los Alamitos Creek Trail](#)

See all of our [summer recommendations](#) or visit our [complete collection of guides](#).

If you would like to write a guide for a location that you love to bird, please contact Eve Meier at fieldtrips@scvas.org.



Black-headed Grosbeak: LC Boros

Backyard Birding

Enjoy the new All Around Town

The new [All Around Town](#), our monthly backyard bird report, is here! Meet a family of woodpeckers, watch a hawk splash in a bird bath, and investigate some mystery feathers. Enjoy stories, photos, videos, and sketches of the birds that live among us, submitted by our members and friends.

Tell us - what birds are in your yard or neighborhood now, and what are they doing? Send your notes, lists, and photos to backyardbirds@scvas.org and we'll publish them in the next All Around Town. We are curious about all birds, so don't feel that you need to wait for a special sighting before writing in. What does a summer day look and sound like where you live?

Help prevent window collisions at your home

Window strikes are a major cause of death for birds. Even if a bird flies away after hitting a window, seemingly unharmed, it often dies later of internal injuries.

If you have had birds fly into your windows, or if you are feeding birds near buildings, **please consider treating your windows to reduce the likelihood of fatal collisions.** There are a range of treatment options for all lifestyles and budgets - see this [list from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) and these [resources from the American Bird Conservancy](#). Installing window treatments also makes a good summer project.



August Bioblitz

Join SCVAS and the BioBlitz Club as we explore the North Coyote Valley! Whether you're chasing butterflies or birds, we'll be documenting any and every species we encounter on this morning out. Join us at this restricted OSA location on **August 20, 9AM-12PM**.

[Register Here](#)



Conservation Corner

Alviso Hotel consumes open space and habitat

When the Topgolf project was approved a few years ago, we participated in the Environmental Review process and commented on the loss of open space and habitat. The environmental review documents for that project expressed the intent to leave 6 acres of land undeveloped, and thus rejected the need for mitigation. Now, a new project - Alviso hotel - proposes to develop those same acres. This constitutes segmentation of CEQA review (segmenting a large project to small ones to avoid analyzing and mitigating the full impact) that is not permitted by law. The CEQA documents for the new hotel also dismissed concerns for a plethora of avian species, including burrowing owls. SCVAS submitted three letters on this project to the City of San Jose and appealed the Director Hearing's decision. We hope the project will fully compensate for the loss of open space and habitat.

San Jose Light Tower stalled

The San Jose Light Tower (AKA Silicon Valley Urban Confluence Breeze of Innovation) seems to have stalled. Efforts by the promoters to increase interest in this environmentally-obtuse project at the confluence of the Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek in downtown San Jose failed to capture the public's heart and imagination, and funding seems far from the needed \$150+ millions. A recent report by a technical consultant confirms our prediction that the project as proposed is not feasible in this location, and recommends that the proponents purchase land for the project instead of using public land. Recently, the proponents asked the City of San Jose to study placing this project in Cesar Chavez Plaza. It is becoming very clear that they will not be able to raise over \$150,000,000 to construct this vanity project. As we continue to follow the turns and tribulation of this project, we continue to hope that the proponents will reconsider this proclaimed "gift" that takes more than it gives the San Jose community.



Volunteers Needed

Avocet Coordinator

The Avocet Quarterly comes out seasonally, and is constantly in need of new and exciting content. SCVAS is looking for someone to help define the theme of each issue, collect content from contributors, determine word count for articles, and organize photos to be used. The Avocet Coordinator will work closely with Matthew who will remain as editor on each issue. Graphic design of each issue is not included in this position. Contact Matthew if interested at director@scvas.org

Event Coordinator

Our Speaker Series is looking for compelling guests—field researchers, biologists, artists, authors, explorers, activists and film makers... The Event Coordinator will help us locate and schedule these speakers on a monthly basis. Until further notice, the events will be virtual so location of our guest speakers are not limited by geography. Perhaps soon, we will have a speaker coming to us from overseas... This position may also be important when we begin planning for our Centennial Celebration in 2025! Contact Matthew if interested at director@scvas.org



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