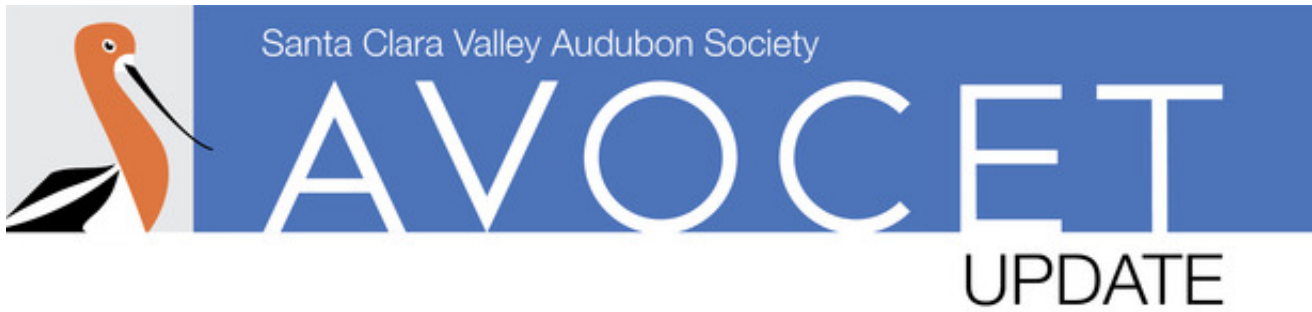


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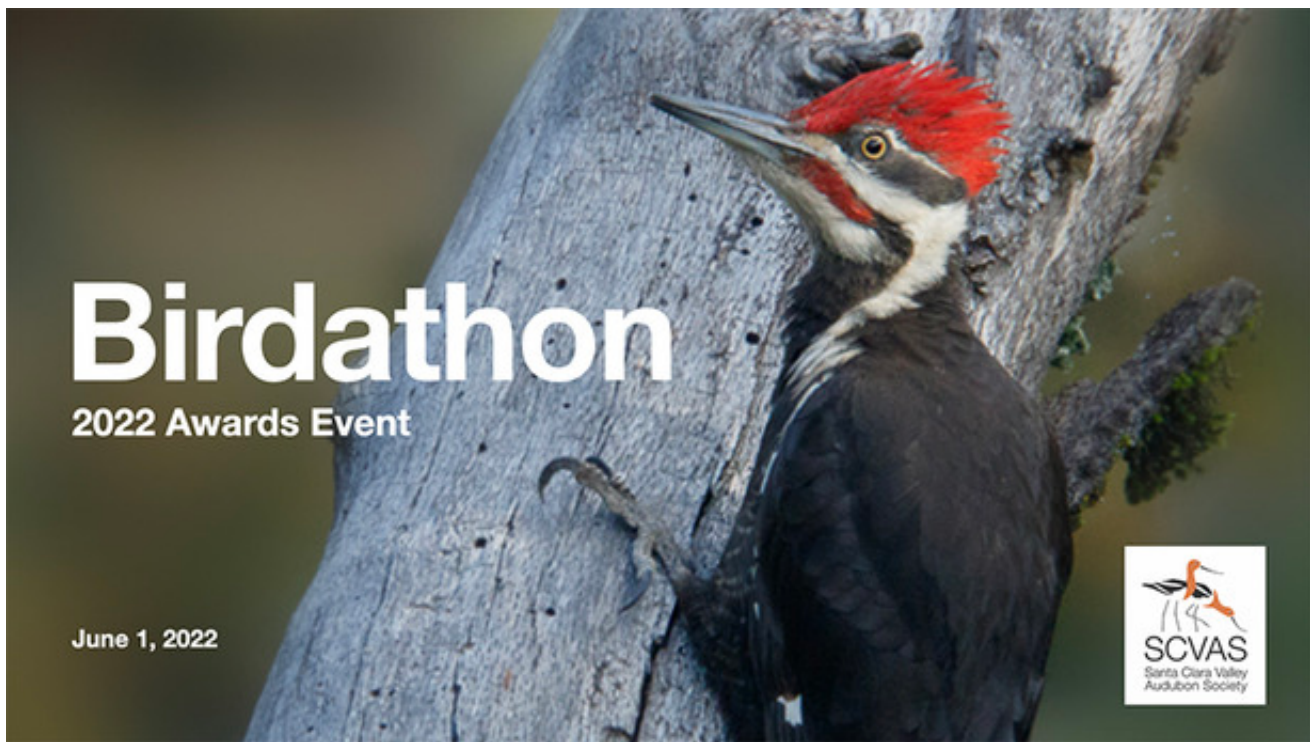
Blue Grosbeak: Gena Zolotar

## **Avocet Update: June 2022**

Summer is certainly the time for learning. All around us we have recently fledged and very confusing young birds that we should recognize right away. But if you're like me, those young birds can be pretty confusing. Just today for example, I saw a recently fledged Spotted Towhee and my first thought was... *what the heck is that??* Luckily, that moment of uncertainty was brief and definitely not new—it happens every summer, and fall, and winter and spring, just like clockwork when new arrivals show up. They seem to be there just to confound us. But I like that. It's all learning. On that note, In fall we will launch a new curriculum for high schools in mid-county and we will also be offering new classes to our members both online and in person. In the mean time we have our Birdathon Awards Event next week, and after that our Annual Event in July. Be sure to check out the new Summer Avocet and wonderful new field trips. It's a good time of year!

**~Matthew Dodder, Executive Director**

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## **Birdathon Awards Event**

The online event is scheduled for **June 1 at 7:00 PM**

Live music will be supplied by Bill Walker and highlights from this year's successful campaign will be announced. Tune in for the fun as we toast the winning teams! [Register here](#)

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**SPECIAL EVENT**  
**ANNUAL CELEBRATION**  
*Sat, July 23 at 7 pm*

## My Year at SCVAS

*Giulianna Pendleton, Environmental Advocacy Assistant*

### **Summer Avocet is now online**

Printed will be mailed soon and copies will be available soon at our Nature Shop. Download the most recent Avocet issue [here](#).

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## Save the Date

On **July 23**, SCVAS will hold an annual event online. We all miss our in-person gatherings, but due to continuing concerns over COVID, this year's even will be online again.

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SCVAS Field Trip to Palo Alto Baylands led by Don Pendleton

## Field Trips

In-person field trips for June post on **May 28**. Locations covered include Calero Reservoir, Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant, Rancho Cañada del Oro and more! We also have our annual Snowy Plover walk with Ben Pearl from SFBBO this June! 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](mailto:fieldtrips@scvas.org) for details.





Let's Go Birding Together Trip

## Special Field Trip Events

### **Accessible Birding for Beginners Tuesday, June 14**

Have you ever wondered what that bird in your backyard or local park was? If you want to learn but don't know where to start, or if you thought birding was too challenging for those with mobility concerns, please join us!

[Register Here](#)

### **Young Birders: Palo Alto Baylands Saturday, June 18**

Birders ages 13-18 (and their parents) are welcome to join this bird walk through the Palo Alto Baylands.

Join young birder, Massimo Bafetti and his two co-leads (SCVAS staff members Matthew and Carolyn) as they look for baby shorebirds and waterfowl amongst the pickleweed, watch the swallows, and keep an eye out for hunting raptors as we visit the duck pond, mudflats, and tidal marsh on this field trip for young birders. You never know what else we'll find at this South Bay hot spot... maybe a Rail?

[Register Here](#)

### **Let's Go Birding Together: Sunnyvale WPCP Saturday, June 25**

Join SCVAS, the Queer Birders of North America, and the Feminist Bird Club as we celebrate Pride Month with our favorite activity! This inclusive field trip welcomes birders of all levels and physical ability as we take in the breeding birds at this bayside hotspot.

[Register Here](#)



American Coot: Sarah Chan

## Self-Guided Field Trips

We have added one new guide to our collection.

- [Loma Prieta](#) by Mike Ambrose

For all of our **June 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).



Brown-headed Cowbird: Mary Ann Robertson

## Backyard Birding

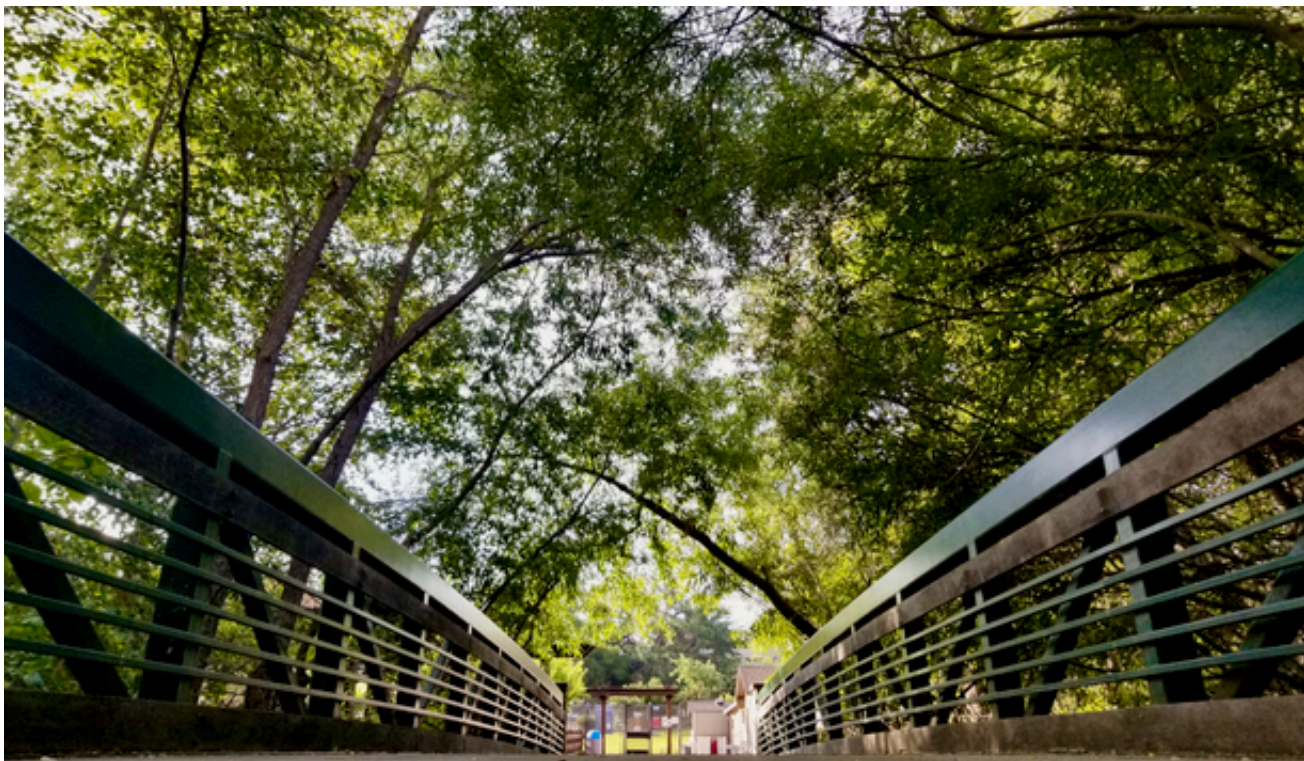
**[All Around Town](#)** - **All Around Town turns 100:** you've now spotted over 100 bird species in your yards and neighborhoods since we started this project! The latest edition is a real treat, full of nesting news, spring comings and goings, and humorous tales of our avian neighbors. And don't miss the slow-motion video of a woodpecker foraging and eating.

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.

**[Backyard Bird of the Month](#)** - Our featured bird for June is the **Brown-headed Cowbird**, a member of the blackbird family. These birds are brood parasites, a somewhat grim term for a fascinating reproductive strategy: cowbirds lay their eggs in other birds' nests and leave the incubating and parenting to these other birds, called hosts. You may be startled to see a Dark-eyed Junco feeding a much larger juvenile cowbird!

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Bridge over troubled creek: Carolyn Knight

## Conservation Corner

### Palo Alto Baylands and Byxbee Park

SCVAS advocacy program is looking for Palo Alto residents to join us in protecting birds and habitat at the Baylands and Byxbee Park. Please contact [shani@scvas.org](mailto:shani@scvas.org) if you are available to help.

### June Ballot: Vote NO on Measure A in Santa Clara County

Valley Water (AKA Water District) has placed on the June Ballot a misleading measure. Asking "Shall the measure amending the Santa Clara Valley Water District Ordinance 11-01 to limit Board members to four successive four-year terms be adopted?" Board members are currently limited to three successive four-year terms, so a **yes vote would extend rather than limit the term limits. SCVAS recommends a NO vote on Valley Water ballot measure A.**

### AB 2382: Light Pollution Control California

State Assembly Member Alex Lee has introduced a bill (AB 2382) to reduce light pollution and promote better health and safety for birds, humans, and nature. If passed, the bill will reduce future outdoor light pollution on buildings and structures on State properties. SCVAS is a sponsor of AB 2382 and we are working with Lee's legislative team to help make this bill a law! You can read the text [here](#).

### Cupertino: Help Restore the Blackberry Farm Golf Course to Nature!

Cupertino is asking community members to share their opinions on their preferred future use of the Blackberry Farm Golf Course site. This property is near the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS). Cupertino is considering two alternatives:

- A.** Minor Repairs to the Existing Golf Course
- B.** Restore the site to natural habitat with trail facilities. Previously, there was a strong response from residents in favor of restoration to nature

**Change is hard, so the city needs to hear from all of us!**

- **Please respond to [this short survey](#)** and ask Cupertino to Restore the land to its natural habitat.
- There will be a Virtual Community Meeting **Monday, June 6 at 6:30 pm**. [Register Here](#).

## Reasons for restoring nature:

### Option B: Conversion to Natural Habitat

1. The restored natural area will use less water than the golf course, especially after the first 3-8 years of irrigation to establish the trees and plants.
2. This will be a place to plant native trees, shrubs and grasses which provide habitat for birds and other species, and support biodiversity as recommended in Cupertino's Climate Action Plan.
3. There are grants available that will reduce the amount of City funding required for maintaining natural habitat.
4. Children need to learn about nature first hand. Many popular outings and courses at Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society at McClellan Ranch grew during the pandemic, and will continue to grow.
5. Our region is becoming more urban. We must restore a piece of wildness for wildlife, our children and the future of our environment.

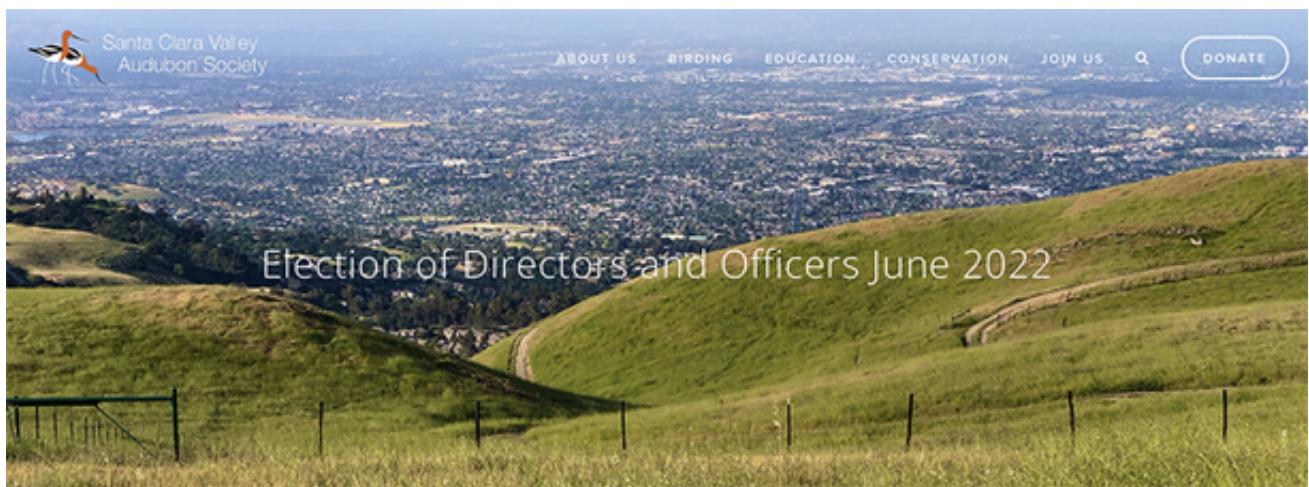
### Option A: Golf Course Minor Repairs and Improvements

1. Golf Courses use much more water in a time of growing drought than the natural habitat.
2. It currently costs \$500,000 a year to maintain a large area for a relatively few residents. Repairs will reduce this subsidy, but not eliminate it.
3. The overall grass used for playing golf is a "food desert" for wildlife.

Speak out for restoring nature! Learn more [here](#).

### Monday, June 6 at 6:30 pm [Register Here](#).

Please participate and ask Cupertino to Restore the land to its natural habitat. (This alternative includes discontinuing the use of the site as a golf course. This would consist of transitioning much of the existing golf course turf to native, climate-friendly landscaping, removing much of the existing perimeter netting and fencing, construction of a trail network, and design for potential environmental education programming.)



**It's almost time to cast your vote!**

In early June a poll will be sent to membership to choose the Board Directors and Officers for the Board year which starts July 1, 2022 and runs through June 30, 2023. Officers are re-elected each year. Directors serve terms of three years, and can be renewed by vote afterwards. A quorum of 31 members must vote by June 30. See the candidates [here](#).

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