

Wilson's Snipe: Tom Grey

September 2022

Although the official start of Fall isn't until September 22, we can already see evidence of its approach. Along Stevens Creek, which runs beside our headquarters at McClellan Ranch Preserve, the meadow is now a golden straw color and the sycamores and cottonwoods have started to shed their leaves. The Pacific Spiketail, a large creek-loving Dragonfly with snake-like markings of black and yellow, has been laying her eggs in the slow-moving edges of the water. I'm surprised and happy that it is finding water at all... Elsewhere in the County, we have heard reports of Wilson's Snipe (shown above) and Willow Flycatcher. The latter has always been a sure sign of the changing seasons for me. Soon we will see more changes and more arrivals—a few "Eastern Warblers" and I always look forward to that. This month you can log into an upcoming presentation on this coming season of birds, select from a new batch of field trips, enjoy our famous backyard birds story, a brand new section on our website about garden habitats for birds, AND our Conservation Corner. There's plenty of stuff happening in September. Enjoy!

~**Matthew Dodder, Executive Director**



New Series

FIRST SESSION

Autumn: Seasonal Birding in Santa Clara County

Monday, September 12, 2022

7:00-8:00 PM (via zoom)

Similar to the "What To Look For" column in the Avocet, "Seasonal Birding in Santa Clara County" is a new 4-part series designed to give some context for birding in each season. Learn what the deal is with migration and vagrancy, which birds to watch for, lots of locations to visit and recommendations about how to find great birds. To start it off, we will offer Autumn. Subsequent seasons will be offered throughout the year. This series is FREE, but registration is still required. Please sign up [here](#).



The

AVOCET

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Fall 2022 · Vol 70 Num 4



White-throated Sparrow seen through the window. Matthew Dodder

PRESENTATION
MATTHEW DODDER
AUTUMN BIRDING
Mon, Sept 12, at 7:00
via Zoom



Introducing Annie Yang

Shani Kleinhaus, Environmental Advocate

We are happy to announce that Annie Yang has accepted the role of the SCVAS Environmental Action Committee Chair. In this role, Annie supports our Environmental Advocate in communications with members and volunteers, participates in meetings with other environmental groups, and represents the EAC in front of city councils and commissions. She explains what drew her to the EAC.

"Several years ago, when I was living in New York City, a migrating bird hit a skyscraper and fell at my feet. Most people hurried past the dazed bird sitting on the sidewalk, chalking up the creature with its long beak to another one of

Fall issue of the Avocet is available

The fall issue of the Avocet is now available for download on our site [here](#). All the usual columns like Conservation Corner, What to Look For, Field Notes, a 10-year retrospective of "The Fledglings", and more! If you requested a printed version, it will be mailed out next week.



SCVAS Field Trip to Vasona County Park led by Bob Bolles

Field Trips

In-person field trips for September post on **August 28**. Locations covered include Little Uvas, Vasona, and the Stanford Arizona Cactus Garden. 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.



Yellow Warbler: Brooke Miller

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.

- [NEW! Sunnyvale Baylands](#) (Sunnyvale)
- [Palo Alto Baylands](#) (Palo Alto)
- [Ulistac Natural Area](#) (Santa Clara)
- [Vasona Lake County Park](#) (Los Gatos)

See all of our [fall 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.



American Crow: Vivek Khanzodé

Backyard Birding

Enjoy the new All Around Town

The new [All Around Town](#) is here, and it's been a summer of abundance for backyard birders! You've observed so many young birds, with their parents and on their own, and our latest backyard bird report is full of your stories and photos of them.

This month's report also features a special guide to Hooded and Bullock's Orioles. Learn how to identify juveniles and adults, males and females, before they head out of town for the winter. We've also included a few brain teasers for you - tricky and unusual photos for you to practice your ID skills on. Enjoy!

From somewhere in the trees, you hear "boing!" Is it the sound of a metal spring...or a crow?

Our [Backyard Bird of the Month](#) for September is the creative and expressive **American Crow**. This curious bird readily adapts to life in cities and towns, and is a close observer of us humans. Read about the bird's intelligence and behavior, learn how to tell it apart from a raven, and explore the fun audio and video resources we've put together.

What birds have you observed near your home lately? 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.



Red Flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*) and Yellow-faced Bumblebee: Ann Hepenstal

New Web Page

Planting Garden Habitats for Birds and Pollinators

Ann Hepenstal, long time SCVAS volunteer and advocate of native plants has practiced the art of providing habitat for birds and pollinators for years. Her columns have appeared in the AVOCET on many occasions. Now, we she has written a new piece on the fall season and what that means as far as your garden. We will assemble all of her earlier articles and add them to this new page soon. In the mean time, check out her newest contribution to this ongoing project on [this new page](#).



Photo by Don Debold

Holiday Afternoon at Rengstorff House **Monday, September 5, 11AM-2PM**

SCVAS is partnering up with the Friends of Rengstorff House to celebrate local history and the awesome birds of Shoreline Lake.

[Learn More](#)

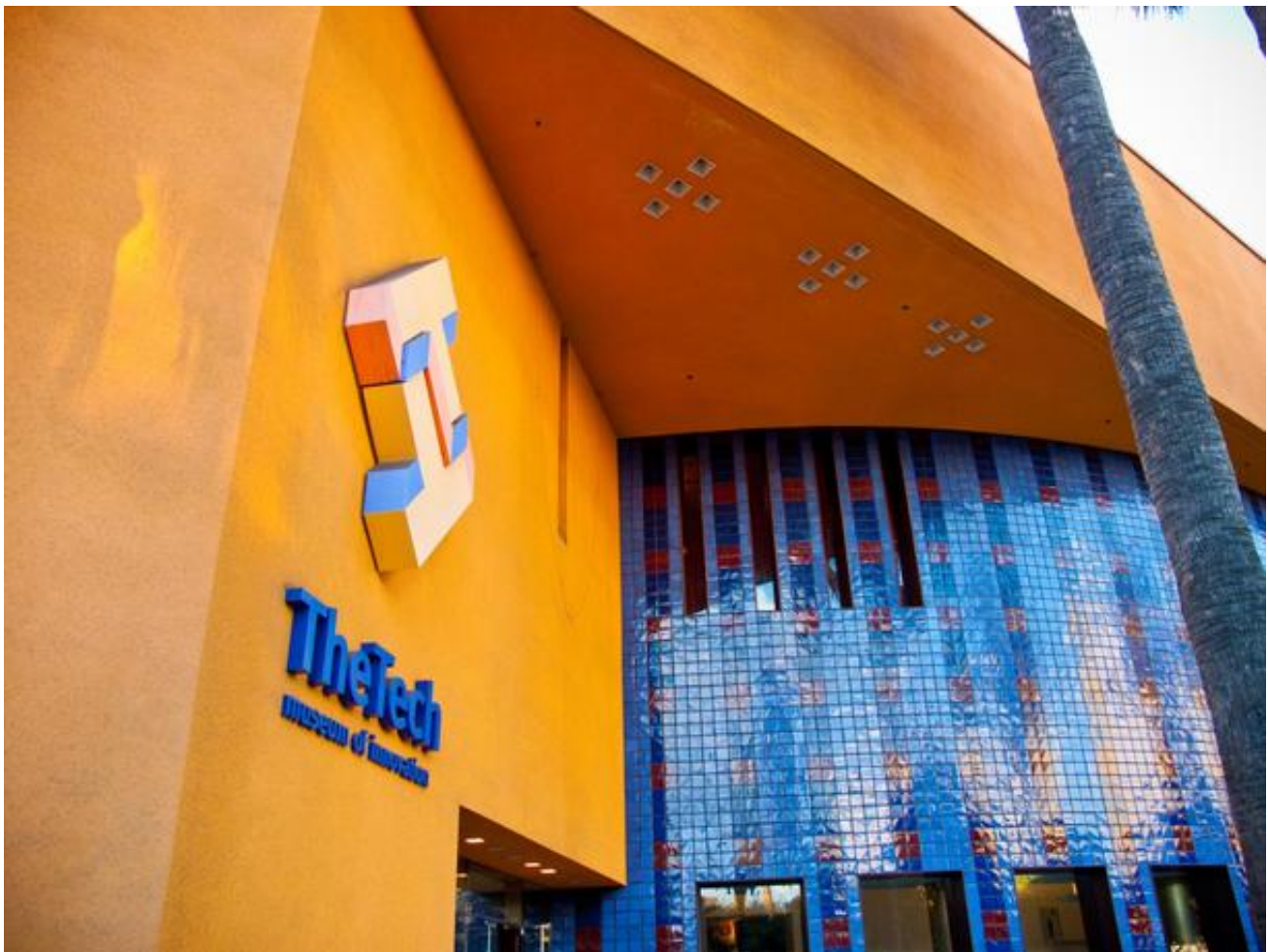


Photo by HarshLight

SCVAS at The Tech

September 24 & 25, 10AM-4PM

We're spending the weekend at the Tech! Join us as we take in the fantastic new documentary, *Wings Over Water*, featuring some iconic migratory birds, as we talk birding with tech, and take part in a search for migratory birds through the museum's first floor. SCVAS members using our special promo code will get \$2 off IMAX tickets for the show.

[Learn More](#)



Conservation Corner

Important state bill to control light pollution

SCVAS is a sponsor of [AB 2382](#), Light pollution control (authored by Assemblymember Alex Lee and joined by Senator Ben Allen) which aims to reduce light pollution on state government properties. Please watch for alerts, we may need all our members to ask the Governor to sign this bill.

Action Alert: Sargent Ranch Quarry

Comments on the Environmental Impact Report for the Sargent Ranch Quarry are due September 27. SCVAS will submit comments, and if you would wish to add your own, directions for writing comments are provided on the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band [call for action](#) (or contact advocate@scvas.org).

[Rally for Juristac on Saturday, September 10th](#), 1:00-4:00 p.m., on the plaza in front of the County administrative building at 70 W. Hedding in San Jose.

Please consider signing the [Juristac petition](#).

600 Trees

SCVAS submitted comments on Environmental Quality Act documents for several projects in San Jose, highlighting creek corridors, lighting and glass facades. In our most recent comment letter, we focused on a plan to kill over 600 trees in order to make room for 4 warehouses and wide sidewalks on Qume Ave. The Environmental Impact report was riddled with errors, such as the requirement for surveys for bird nests in midwinter (instead of the nesting season), and an error in tree numbering that could result in the destruction of a centuries-old valley oak tree deemed "irreplaceable". In our comment letter, we pointed out these and other errors as well as the bad design (why should 10-ft sidewalks be prioritized over mature shade trees? Why cannot the project footprint be modified to save the trees?) and inadequate mitigation that only required planting small trees and allowed paying a fee to mitigate the tremendous loss at this site.

What is wrong with these pictures?



Above: These trees slated to be removed to make room for a sidewalk!



Above: This centuries-old “irreplaceable” Valley Oak tree is at risk due to clerical errors (misnumbering) and lack of proper protection over time

Announcements

[Hellyer Park Bioblitz](#): Join BioBlitz Club and Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful for our seasonal series of BioBlitz events at Hellyer Park in San Jose on Aug 28, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM.

[Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week](#) (Oct 8 - 14) at Don Edwards SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge: Come celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week, this year from October 8 through October 14 at the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. On October 14, drop by the refuge to celebrate nature by exploring your creative side.

[Palo Alto Foothills Park Annual Pass](#): Do you frequent Foothill Park? Annual passes may be purchased at the Lucie Stern Community Center on Tuesdays from 9 A.M. -5 P.M., by phone at 650-463-4900, or online. There are several discounts and free annual passes available for people who qualify.

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is [hiring](#) a Conservation Biology Intern. The job will provide training in a broad range of natural resource management techniques, environmental analysis, habitats, and tools.

[Valley Water 2022 Water Summit](#) (Hybrid event): Valley Water is hosting a Water Summit on Friday, August 26, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., to bring together Silicon Valley leaders to discuss our current water supply challenges and how we can better partner together to find solutions.



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.

