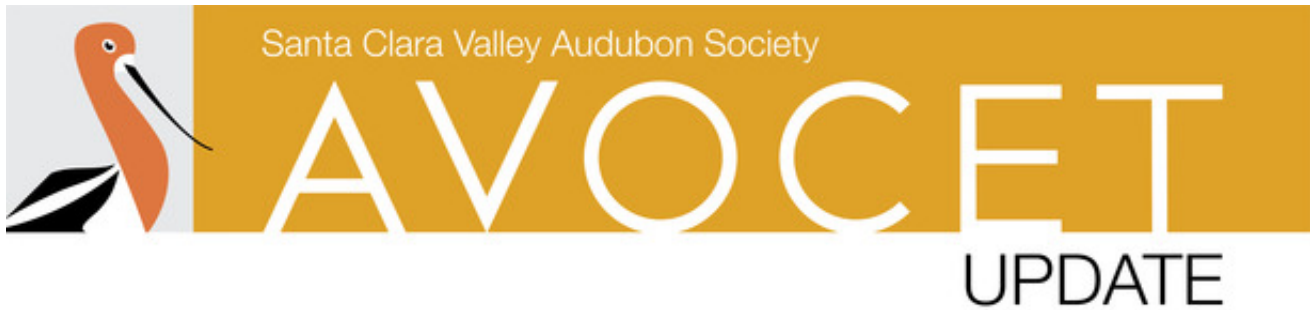




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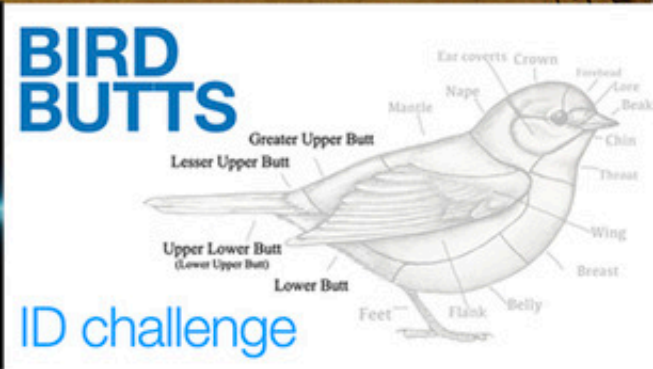


Wilson's Warbler: Caroline Lambert

## April 2023

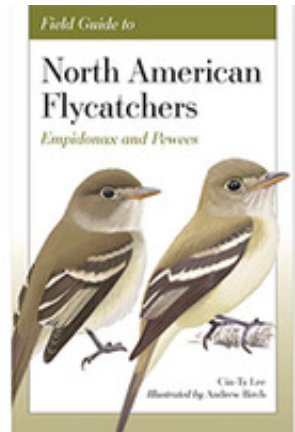
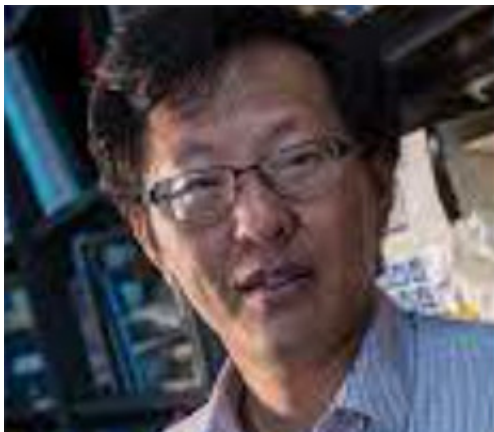
Spring is finally here and the Birdathon teams are gathering—preparing for their big day! Birdathon 2023 should be another exciting year with thrilling stories, photos, drawings and sounds, it needs to be. If you attended the Kickoff Event earlier this week, you know we have an ambitious goal of at least \$80,000 from this year's Birdathon fundraising efforts. We need everyone's help to reach that goal, or perhaps even exceed it! All funds brought in by you and your sponsors will support our Education Program, including our flagship Wetlands Discovery Program. For the more than 30 years the program has been running, SCVAS has inspired 3rd-5th grade students to take an interest in the environment by showing them to our local wetlands and letting them experience the rich biodiversity found there. Last year, some 2000 children, many from Title 1 schools, experienced this important program and we hope that many will do so again this year. With your help, they will. Please sign up to join some of our amazing Birdathon teams, and if you can't get out to join the fun in person, you can still pledge your support and still be a part of the fun. All details including the event calendar can be found [here](#).

~Matthew Dodder, Executive Director



## Birdathon

Check out the [action movie trailer](#) for this year's Birdathon. It's one minute of pure adrenaline to get you pumped for this year's big event. Also, if you missed it, check out the full [Kickoff Event](#) and the Bird Butts ID quiz at the very end of the show! Sign ups for [teams](#) are happening now, so get on the Birdathon bus as soon as you can to join the fun.



## Speaker Series

### Cin-Ty Lee and Andrew Bird

Authors of the newly published, **North American Flycatchers**

**Wednesday, April 19**

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

Meet the author and illustrator behind the brand new in-depth field guide on the two challenging genera of North American Flycatchers. Lee and Birch will discuss their many projects over the years, why they work so well together. They will give us a tour of their new publication and show us how to help us get comfortable with the most infamous bird family in North America.

[Register Here](#)

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Field trip to Los Capitanillos led by Mike Ambrose, Sonja Kramer and Vinayak Hebbagil (March 18, 2023)

## Field Trips

In-person field trips for April post on **March 28**. Visit [field trips](#) for more information and to sign-up.

**UPDATED!** To help more people have a chance at getting a spot on trips, please limit your sign-ups to 2 **WEEKEND** trips per month.

**Trips filled-up?** Check a day or two before your trip of interest goes out. Sometimes we have cancellations.



American Robin: Valerie Hau

## Self-Guided Field Trips

We've come up with some great ideas for places you can bird on your own or with your household. Our self-guided trips direct you to where to bird and provide advice on which birds to look for in which habitats. Browse our [complete collection of guides](#) by location, park name or season.

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## Backyard Birding

### All Around Town

Our recent edition of [All Around Town](#) is a feast for the senses, full of stories, sights, and sounds! In addition to your tales of backyard birding, we have no fewer than five videos for you, featuring mergansers, nuthatches, blackbirds, and more. Enjoy neighborhood bird observations from our members and friends.

What birds have you seen in your yard or neighborhood lately? Send your stories, photos, videos, sound clips, and other creative expressions to [backyardbirds@scvas.org](mailto:backyardbirds@scvas.org) and we'll publish them in the next All Around Town. Submittals for the month of March are due **Sunday evening, April 2.**



Mountain Bluebird: Sushanta Bhandarkar

## **GBBC Photo Gallery**

Have you seen our [photo gallery from the Great Backyard Bird Count](#) yet? If not, take a look - you'll enjoy the beautiful images! Thank you to all of our wonderful local photographers for participating in this project.



Band-tailed Pigeon: Deanne Tucker

## Avian Disease Update

An outbreak of **avian trichomonosis** is killing Band-tailed Pigeons in our area. While trichomonosis outbreaks often occur among these birds in the winter, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife started receiving increased numbers of mortality reports in February, including [hundreds of reports from the Bay Area](#).

Trichomonosis can spread through shared water sources, and especially water in smaller receptacles. **If Band-tailed Pigeons are visiting your yard, the CDFW recommends that you remove your bird feeders and bird baths, and drain fountains**, while the birds are in your area. For more information, including symptoms of the disease and what to do if you find a dead bird, see the CDFW's news release on this subject.

Band-tailed Pigeons are present year-round in Santa Clara County and are frequently found in the western and eastern foothills. The birds often forage acorns, madrone berries, and dogwood fruits in the fall and winter months.

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Black Skimmers: Brooke Miller

## Conservation Corner

### Action Alert: Palo Alto, immediate

On Monday March 27, the City of Palo Alto will study a new contract with Pets In Need for services and operations of an animal shelter. The proposed agreement includes a potential Trap-Neuter-Release program for feral cats.

**Predation by domestic cats is the number-one direct, human-caused threat to birds in the United States and Canada.** Cats have contributed to the extinction of 63 species of birds, mammals, and reptiles in the wild and continue to adversely impact a wide variety of other species, including those at risk of extinction. The ecological dangers are so critical that the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists domestic cats as one of the world's worst non-native invasive species.

Feral cats do not belong anywhere in our landscapes. Domestic cats should be pampered and cherished in our homes, and not be released to hunt birds and other small animals in the baylands, in parks and open space, along creeks or in our backyards.

Please write to [city.council@CityofPaloAlto.org](mailto:city.council@CityofPaloAlto.org) and ask Mayor Kou and the council not to allow the release or return of feral cats anywhere in Palo Alto. Please title your email **"Item 3 on the 3/27 agenda: Please do not allow TNR"**.

### Action Alert: Survey for Countywide Trails Master Plan, by April 30

Santa Clara County Parks is updating their Countywide Trails Master Plan, which includes a map and conceptual trail routes in the County. County Parks is looking for public feedback on where trails should be and the prioritization of trails for implementation. We think trails are a great way for people to experience and connect with nature, but we also want to make sure trails are not built in sensitive plant and wildlife areas. In natural areas and along creeks, electric bikes can disrupt wildlife use of their habitat. The [project's website](#) includes

information on public meetings to learn more about what changes are happening to trails as well as a feedback tool to give input on new trails and trail prioritization. The next public meeting is **Wednesday, March 29, 6:00-7:30pm**. The survey is **due on April 30**.

## Updates

- **Mountain View** adopted the Shoreline Wildlife Management Plan. This plan will provide guidance for sustaining and improving habitat for species at Shoreline parks, Charleston retention basin and the egret rookery of Shorebird Way.
- **Gilroy** denied an application for 101-facing electronic billboards and a change to the sign ordinance that would allow these billboards. However, the CEQA document was approved, and the application for the billboards can return in the future.
- **Palo Alto** adopted an ordinance to prohibit electric bikes on unpaved trails in the City's nature preserves (with specific ADA accommodation for the disabled people.)
- The City **Council** of Cupertino reaffirmed a previous approval of a billboard-size illuminated sign on a storage facility oriented towards 280. Council members Moore and Chau expressed the opinion that there was new information presented that allows the city to rescind the approval. Mayor Wei, Vice Mayor Mohan and Council member Fruen sided with city staff and the city's attorney, and expressed that legally, they had to reaffirm the approval of the sign. The silver lining is that Cupertino will be looking at changes to the sign code to prevent similar situations from occurring in the future.



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