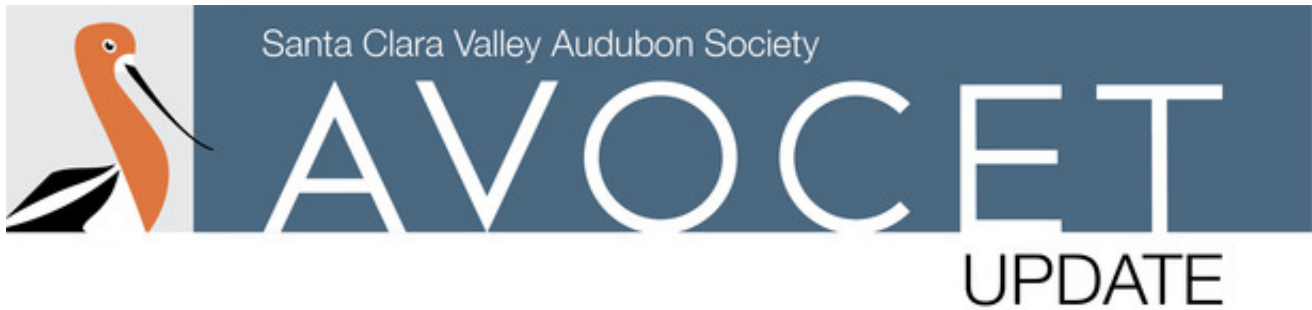


[Click to view this email in a browser](#)



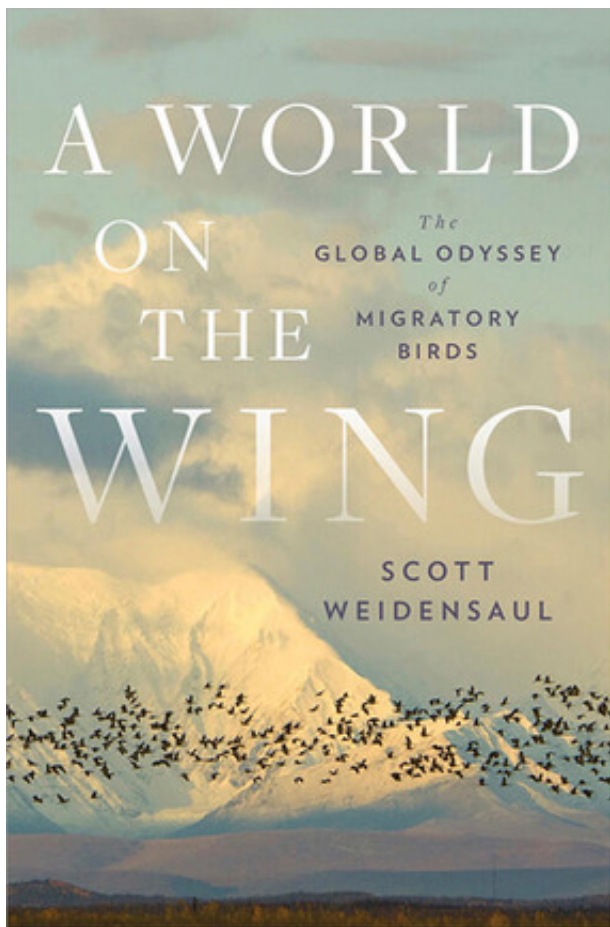
American Dipper: Chris Johnson

## February 2023

We have an exciting month of activities ahead of us! Most notably, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) which February 17 and will include Beginning Birding field trips, drop-in eBird workshops at the Ranch as well as an online presentation for those new to birding or this beloved annual Cornell Lab event. We also have a new schedule of our popular field trips to seasonal hotspots and an upcoming online class on Flycatchers—just in time for the Spring Birdathon. Finally, the dates for the Birdathon have been set and more details about how to participate and the prizes available will be posted soon. For now, mark your calendars, and enjoy the birds of February!

~**Matthew Dodder, Executive Director**

---



## Special Event

### Scott Weidensaul

Thursday, February 16

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (via Zoom)

Scientists continue to make astounding discoveries about the navigational and physiological feats that enable migratory birds to cross immense oceans or fly above the highest mountains, go weeks without sleep or remain in unbroken flight for months at a stretch. Scott Weidensaul, author of *A World on the Wing* (2021), takes us around the globe — with researchers in the lab probing the limits of what migrating birds can do, to the shores of the Yellow Sea in China, the remote mountains of northeastern India where tribal villages saved the greatest gathering of falcons on the planet, and the Mediterranean, where activists and police are battling bird poachers — to learn how people are fighting to understand and save the world's great bird migrations.

**The event was made possible by Golden Gate Audubon, Ohlone Audubon, Santa Clara Valley Audubon, Marin Audubon, Sequoia Audubon, San Joaquin Audubon.**

[Sign up here](#)

---



Palo Alto Baylands Field Trip with Diane McCoy and Howard Friedman

## Field Trips

In-person field trips for February and early March post on **January 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.



Clark's Grebe: Brooke Miller

## Self-Guided Field Trips: February Recommendations

- NEW! [Joseph D. Grant Park: Grant Lake to McCreery Lake](#) (San Jose) by Jennifer Oliver
- [Calero Reservoir: Dancing Western and Clark's Grebes](#) (San Jose) by Brooke Miller
- [Picchetti Ranch OSP: Oak Woodland Waiting for the Rains](#) (Cupertino) by Barry Langdon-Lassagne
- [Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant: Ducks for Days](#) (Sunnyvale) by Mike Ambrose
- [Coyote Valley: Love & Raptors in the Air](#) (Morgan Hill) by Dani Christensen
- [Lake Cunningham Park: Wintering Waterfowl and Gulls](#) (San Jose) by Laura Coatney

For more ideas of where to bird see our [complete collection of guides](#).

---



Chestnut-backed Chickadee: Steven Rice

## **Backyard Birding**

### **All Around Town**

The [new All Around Town](#) is here! It's a special edition, with your backyard and neighborhood bird observations from the end of 2022 and the start of 2023, and your birding highlights from the past year. Enjoy stories, photos, videos, and audio clips submitted by you, our members and friends.

In 2022, you added 28 new species to the All Around Town bird list, far exceeding expectations. Review the full list, and meet the six new species you added at the end of the year, in this issue.

Thank you, backyard birders, for another great year of All Around Town! Your observations come together to create a collective narrative about our bird - and human - communities that is fresh, insightful, and rewarding.



## Great Backyard Bird Count

SCVAS invites everyone to join the Great Backyard Bird Count – have fun with friends and family, and give birds a helping hand!

During the GBBC, people around the world come together to count birds and share their observations with scientists and other bird lovers. This year, the GBBC will run from **Friday, February 17 through Monday, February 20.**

SCVAS is offering free activities to help you get ready for the GBBC. Want to learn more about the birds you'll see, or find out how to use eBird? We've got field trips, workshops, and presentations for you.

Look at our activities calendar and [sign up here!](#)

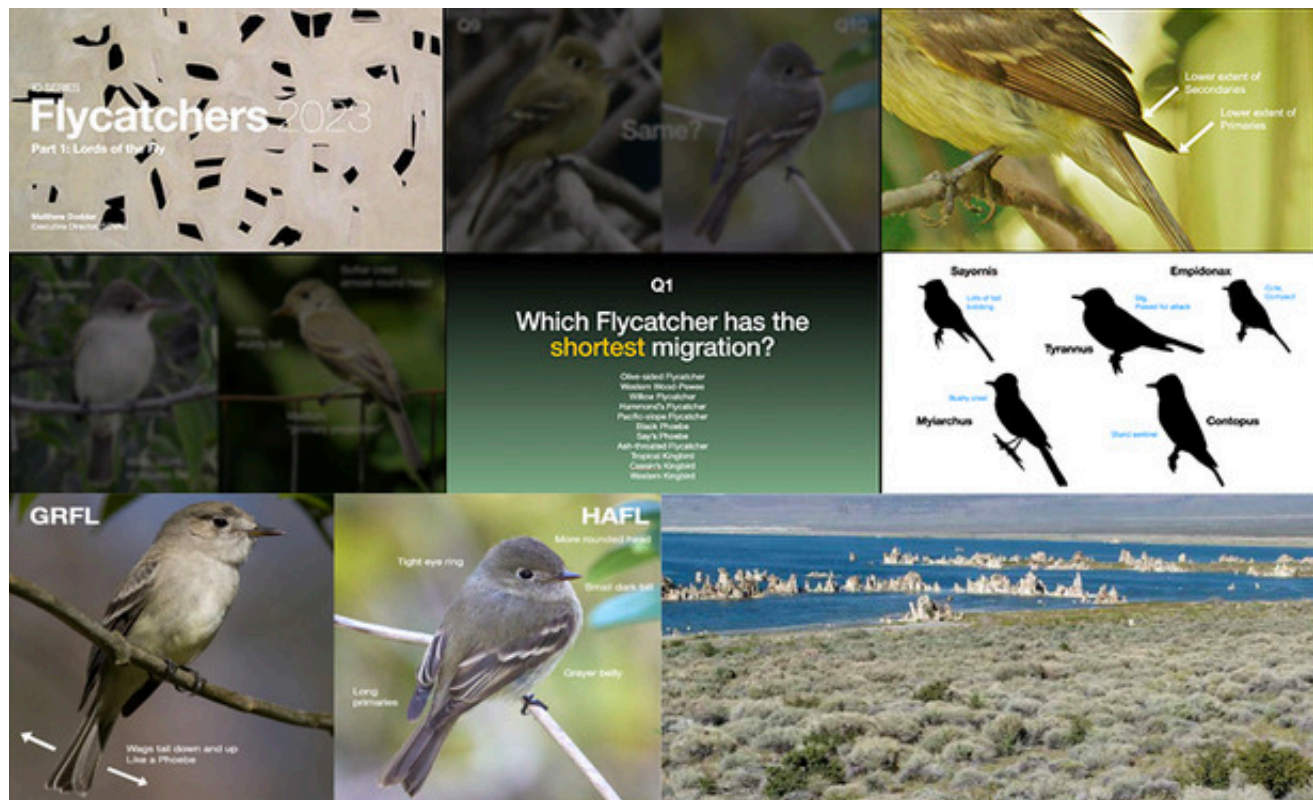


## GBBC Activities

- 1/29/23 Drop-in Birding at Palo Alto Baylands
- 2/4/23 Backyard Birds for Beginners Field Trip
- 2/5/23 Drop-in Birding at Charleston Slough
- 2/6/23 Beginning Birding with SCVAS Executive Director Matthew Dodder (online)
- 2/10/23 Introduction to eBird Workshop
- 2/11/23 Introduction to eBird Workshop
- 2/14/23 Beginning Birding at Cupertino Library
- 2/18/23 Backyard Birds for Beginners Field Trip
- 2/18/23 Beginning Birding at Gilroy Library

**And calling all photographers and other artists!** Send us your favorite photos and artwork from this year's GBBC and we'll publish them in our online gallery. Find out how to participate [here](#).

For more information about the Great Backyard Bird Count, visit our [GBBC web page](#).



## New Class

Get ready for the 2023 Birdthon with a refresher course on Santa Clara County's rich variety of Flycatcher species. Learn the basic groups within this diverse family, how to distinguish them and where to search. The presentations will include discussion of structural differences, field marks, behavior, vocalizations and subtle identification features. Flycatchers 2023 will start February 6. Registration will open in March. Stay tuned!



## Mark Your Calendars

Get ready for the **SCVAS Spring Birdathon**! The dates have been set, sign-ups will begin soon. So mark your calendars and start planning your teams and birding routes as we raise much-needed funds to support our Wetlands Discovery Program. Stay tuned for more details about how to sign up, join a team, create a team and more!

The webpage will be regularly updated, so be sure to check back in as we approach the start.

---



Coyote Creek: Matthew Dodder



## Conservation Corner

The year has just started, and our advocacy team is already engaged in issues all along Santa Clara County. In the south, **Gilroy** is considering allowing digital billboards that will blast motorists on 101 with advertisements and pollute the night sky. The Planning Commission will discuss this **February 2nd**, so if you are interested in helping us voice opposition to digital billboards, please contact [advocate@scvas.org](mailto:advocate@scvas.org).

In **Palo Alto**, at the north of the county, we opposed a proposal to build a sprawling private estate on a meadow within 20-feet from Los Trancos creek - a designated critical steelhead habitat. We pointed out that the proximity to the creek is harmful to the riparian ecosystem, birds, fish and wildlife and may destabilize the creek banks. Council listened, and sent the project to the Planning Commission with direction to consider a wider setback from the creek (about 40-feet), minimize lighting in the riparian corridor, incorporate bird safety measure to reduce the potential of bird striking glass, eliminate of fencing that could impede wildlife movement along the creek, and ensure that small animals, like salamanders, cannot access the swimming pool. Furthermore, council has initiated a process that will soon update the City's Stream Corridor Protection Ordinance. If you are interested in helping us protect Palo Altos streams and riparian ecosystems, please contact [advocate@scvas.org](mailto:advocate@scvas.org).

We continue to engage in other locations. We are following Master Plans in **Sunnyvale** and **Mountain View**, development projects in **San Jose**, and have written opinions opposing the proliferation of industrial scale greenhouses and mushroom farms in **Coyote Valley**. We also continue to advocate for responsible lighting and bird-safe design, and against electric bikes on unpaved trails in natural areas. Please contact [advocate@scvas.org](mailto:advocate@scvas.org) for more information.



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.

**vertical** DELIVERED BY  
**response**  
Try It Free Today!