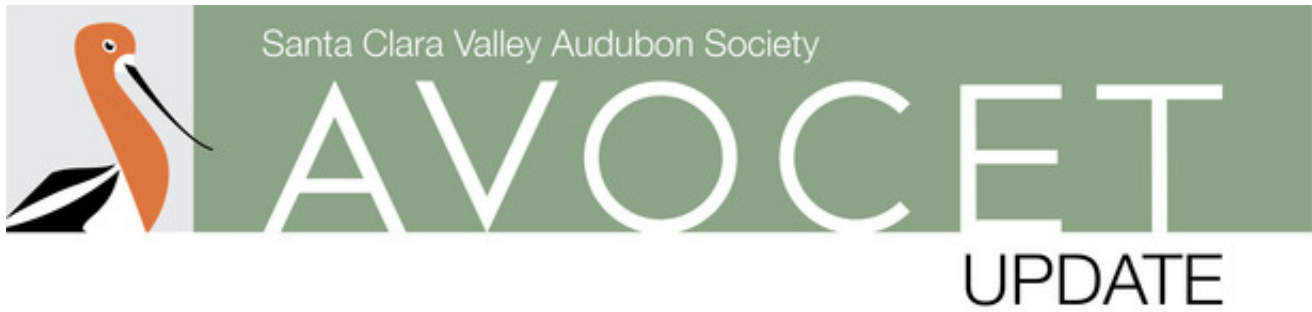


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California Quail: Dave Zittin

January 2023

This has been a truly remarkable year with so many things to celebrate... We have welcomed many new members in 2022, all of whom share our love of nature. Our field trip and class schedules have filled up again. We even added new locations, accessible trips, varying trip formats and some great new leaders. We continued our important work advocating for the protection of our local birds and green spaces, and our voice has become stronger because of your support. Thank you for a great year! We are going to take a few days to wind things down, and our headquarters at **McClellan Ranch will be closed between Christmas and New Year**. We look forward to seeing you in 2023 when we will start up again! Until then, and to all our wonderful members and exceptional volunteers, may your holidays are filled with joy. Stay safe, be happy, and enjoy the year's end.

~**Matthew Dodder, Executive Director**



Annual Report

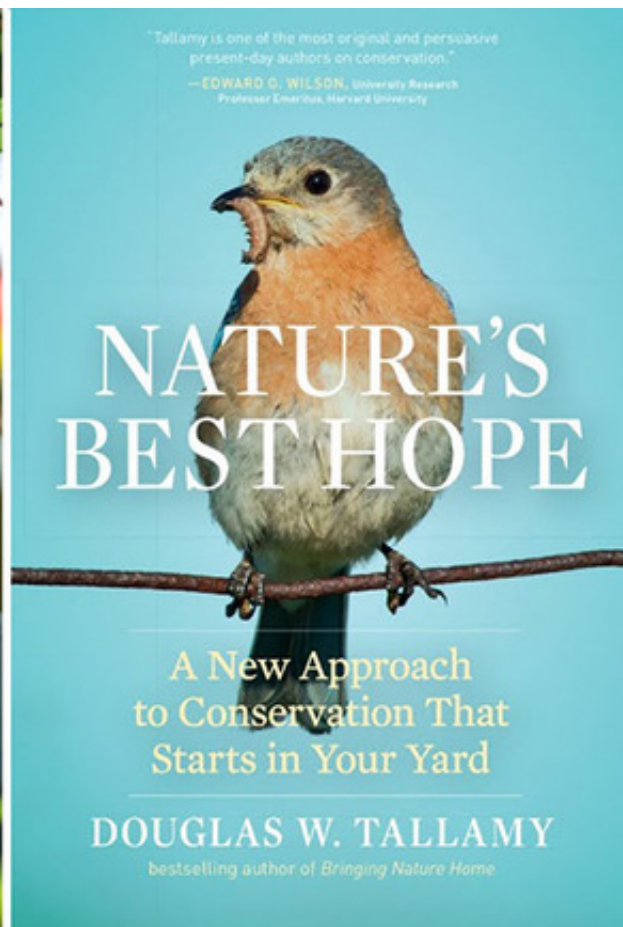
Our fiscal year runs June 1 — May 31. It takes some time to collect all the materials required for a final our Annual Report, but it is now complete. Inside we celebrate the many various accomplishments of the past year with a colorful summary and financial statement. View the report on line [here](#).



McClellan Ranch: Matthew Dodder

Conservation Corner

Our Conservation and Advocacy team wishes everyone Happy, healthy holidays and a wonderful new year. We could not have engaged in so many issues in so many cities without YOU – our members who participate in the democratic process and help us speak for the birds and for nature. As we celebrate our successes, and gear for 2023, we hope you'll consider joining our Environmental Action Committee to help protect our baylands, creeks and open space, reduce light pollution, and strive for bird friendly urban design. Please contact advocate@scvas.org for more information.



Special Event

Doug Tallamy

Wednesday, January 11

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM (via Zoom)

Recent headlines about global insect declines and three billion fewer birds in North America are a bleak reality check about how ineffective our current landscape designs have been at sustaining the plants and animals that sustain us. To create landscapes that enhance local ecosystems rather than degrade them, we must 1) remove the invasives on our property and 2) add the native plant communities that sustain food webs, sequester carbon, maintain diverse native bee communities, and manage our watersheds. If we do this in half of the area now in lawn, we can create Homegrown National Park, a 20 million acre network of viable habitats that will provide vital corridors connecting the few natural areas that remain. This approach to conservation empowers everyone to play a significant role in the future of the natural world.

Doug Tallamy is the T. A. Baker Professor of Agriculture in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has authored 106 research publications and has taught insect related courses for 41 years. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. His books include *Bringing Nature Home*, *The Living Landscape*, co-authored with Rick Darke, *Nature's Best Hope*, a New York Times Best Seller, *The Nature of Oaks*, winner of the American Horticultural Society's 2022 book award. In 2021 he co-founded Homegrown National Park with Michelle Alfandari. His awards include recognition from The Garden Writers Association, Audubon, The National Wildlife Federation, Allegheny College, The Garden Club of America and The American Horticultural Association.

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](#)



November Field Trip to Coyote Valley OSP led by Carter Gasiorowski and Unice Chang

Field Trips

In-person field trips for January and early February post on **Dec 28**. Locations covered include Merced NWR, Sunnyvale Landfill, Los Capitancillos, Ed Levin and Sierra Vista. 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.



Western Bluebird: Carter Gasiorowski

Self-Guided Field Trips: January Recommendations

- [Shoreline Lake: From Scoters and Goldeneye to Skimmers and Terns](#) (Mountain View) by Adam Burnett
- [Hellyer County Park: Take a Gander at these Geese!](#) (San Jose) by Eve Meier
- [Penitencia Creek Trail: Percolation Ponds and Creekside Birding](#) (San Jose) by Chris Johnson
- [Sanborn County Park: John Nicholas Trail](#) (Los Gatos) by Luis Villablanca
- [South County Regional Wastewater Authority: An Oasis For Wintering Ducks, Shorebirds and Raptors](#) (Gilroy) by Rick Herder

For more ideas of where to bird see 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. I'm especially interested in guides for Rancho Canada del Oro, Agnews Historic Park, Pacheco State Park and the main entrance to Sanborn CP.



Bewick's Wren: Deanne Tucker

All Around Town

Send us your submittals for the annual "Best of Backyard Birding" edition of All Around Town!

Tell us: what were your favorite birding moments in your yard or neighborhood in 2022?

What observations were the most surprising, funny, or joyful for you? How many species visited your yard this year? Do you have a favorite photo or sketch to share? What did birding close to home mean to you in the past year? Anything you'd like to share about birding your yard or neighborhood in 2022 is welcome.

Submittals are due by January 8. Send your stories, reflections, lists, photos, and other creative contributions to backyardbirds@scvas.org. We'll publish them in the next **All Around Town**.



Hermit Thrush: John Richardson

Great Backyard Bird Count

Mark your calendars for the Great Backyard Bird Count - **February 17-20, 2023!** This global event is an invitation to everyone, new and experienced birders alike, to celebrate the birds around us. Join friends, family, and bird lovers everywhere to count your local birds and share your counts with scientists.

SCVAS is offering field trips, workshops, and an introductory birding webinar to help you get ready for the GBBC. Registration for most events will open in January (registration for one field trip opens in late December).

For more information, see our GBBC web page.

Western Bluebird Photo Gallery

And finally, pay a virtual visit to our new [photo gallery featuring images of Western Bluebirds](#) from SCVAS members and friends. It's a visual treat!



ID SERIES

Gulls

Part 1: Loving the Chaos

Part 2: Into the Maelstrom

Part 3: Unfamiliar Shores

Gulls 2023

January 9,16,23 (via zoom)

Matthew Dodder (an admitted Larophile and Executive Director of SCVAS) will teach an online 3-session evening class on Gull identification. This beginner/intermediate-level class will focus on structure, topography, and age as keys to identification. Basically, the important tools you'll need to make Gulls fun and less frightening. We will discuss what to look for and how to notice differences between species our most common species. With any luck, we will succeed in decriminalizing this wonderful (albeit intimidating) family of birds and begin to feel better about the challenge they pose. Each registrant will gain access to a class-only chat room where they can ask related questions, make comments, share insights, or post photos. **This class is a revised and improved version of the 2020 class on the same subject.**

[Register Here](#)



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