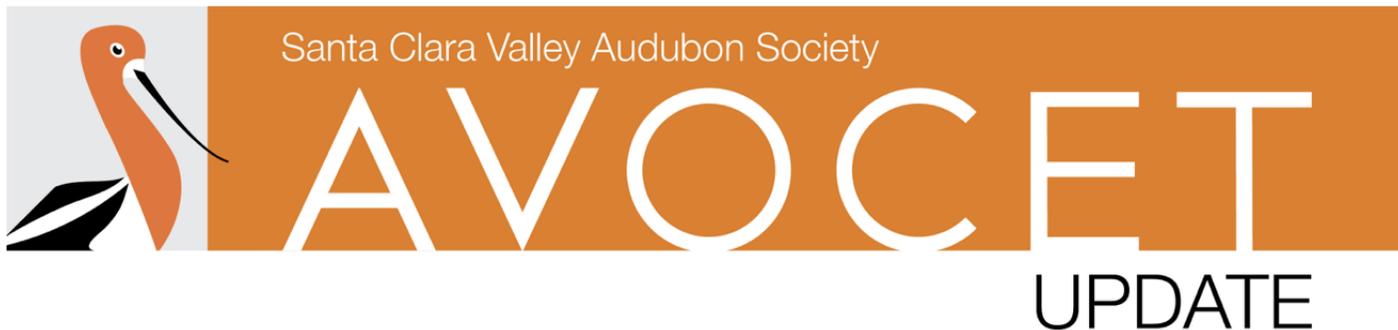


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Hermit Thrush: Tom Grey

November 2023

Fall Passerine migration has slowed a bit, but winter Waterfowl, Gulls and Shorebirds are showing up in droves. Many winter arrivals are visiting our

feeders but still await a White-throated Sparrow this season. In preparation for the season will bring back the popular Waterfowl and Sparrows ID classes in the next couple of months but they have not been scheduled yet. In addition, we will have a Winter Birding overview presentation available soon. Later this month will also mark the beginning of our Annual Campaign and letters will be sent out shortly. We encourage people to give generously to help fund our operations, which include our Conservation and Education programs. SCVAS relies on member donations for 75% of its budget, so you are crucial to our existence. For more information about how SCVAS utilizes your contributions, visit our most recent Annual Report [here](#).

Matthew Dodder

Executive Director



Speaker Series

Crossings: Ben Goldfarb

Wednesday, November 15, 7PM

Some 40 million miles of roadways encircle the earth, yet we tend to regard them only as infrastructure for human convenience. While roads are so ubiquitous they're practically invisible to us, wild animals experience them as alien forces of death and disruption. More than a million animals are killed by cars each day in the U.S. alone; creatures from antelope to salmon are losing their ability to migrate in search of food and mates; and the very noise of traffic chases songbirds from vast swaths of habitat. Today road ecologists are seeking to blunt that destruction through innovative solutions. Conservationists are building bridges for California's mountain lions and tunnels for English toads, engineers are deconstructing the labyrinth of logging roads that web national forests, and community organizers are working to undo the havoc highways have wreaked upon American cities. In his talk, Ben Goldfarb will discuss the ecological harms wrought by transportation and the movement to redress them — and how we can create a better, safer world for all living beings.

Ben Goldfarb is an environmental journalist whose work has appeared in publications including National Geographic, the Atlantic, and the New York Times. He is the author of *Crossings: How Road Ecology Is Shaping the Future of Our Planet* and *Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter*, winner of the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award. He lives in Colorado with his wife, Elise, and his dog, Kit — which is, of course, what you call a baby beaver.

[Register Here](#)



SCVAS Trip to Rancho San Antonio, led by Susan Tenney and Diane McCoy, October 2023

Field Trips

The next set of in-person field trips drop on October 28. Visit [field trips](#) for more information and to sign-up. Trips filled-up? Check a day or two before your trip of interest goes out. Sometimes we have cancellations.

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.



Dark-eyed Junco: Deanne Tucker

Backyard Birding

If you haven't seen the latest [All Around Town](#), our backyard bird report, take a look now! It's full of stories, videos, sketches, photos, and sound clips of birds that our members and friends have spotted.

What birds have you seen in your yard or neighborhood recently? Send a note to backyardbirds@scvas.org and we'll publish your observations in the next All Around Town.



Nuttall's Woodpecker: Curt Bianchi

Project FeederWatch starts on November 1st - [sign up today!](#)

FeederWatch is a community science project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada. Each winter, participants count birds that visit their yards - or a favorite birding spot - and share their observations with the organizers. It's fun and easy, and helps scientists better understand North American bird populations. This is a great project for backyard and neighborhood birders.

New this winter: you can record mammals that visit your count site, not just birds!



Conservation Corner

Sign a petition (Chicago building kills birds)

The tragic death of nearly a thousand birds at the McCormick Lakeside facility in Chicago on October 5 is a strong wake up call about the potential for mass casualties if lights are not extinguished. McCormick Place has been told many times that simply requiring their exhibitors to draw curtains or turn off lights at the end of the day would prevent 80% of bird deaths. This they refuse to do.

Please [sign this petition](#) by Bird Friendly Chicago, Chicago Bird Collision Monitors, Chicago Audubon Society, and the Chicago Ornithological Society.

Respond to a survey (San Jose Light Tower)

The San Jose Light tower corporation is now looking to use public parkland at Cesar Chavez Plaza to build their Breeze Of Innovation light pollution structure. Please respond to their [survey](#) (note- no requirement to disclose

personal information). You may also voice your opinion at the San Jose Parks Commission on November 1st - [here](#) is the agenda and how to participate.

Dark Sky and Bird Safety policies

Our advocacy for Dark Sky and Bird Safety policies is bearing fruit! As Santa Clara County and the Cities of Palo Alto, Los Altos and Mountain View move forward with the development of policy, we would appreciate participation from residents of these cities. Please contact advocate@scvas.org for information on Dark Sky and Bird Safety Policy in your city and to help advance robust protections for birds and the environment!

Saving the newts

We are making progress in advocating to protect newts along Lexington Reservoir. The Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open space District has accepted the Alternatives Analysis and Basis of Design Report for the Alma Bridge Road Newt Passage and approved funds for Phase II - environmental studies and clearance, 65% design and regulatory permitting. Newts are still being run over by traffic, but hopefully we'll save them before they are all gone.



North Coyote Valley BioBlitz

November 5, 9-11:30 AM

North Coyote Valley Conservation Area

Join our merry band of naturalists as we explore what Coyote Valley has to offer! With the weather turning, we'll be on the look out for migratory birds (including Prairie Falcons and Ferruginous Hawks), searching for tarantualas, and inspecting every leaf for galls! Bring the whole family and help us document the biodiversity of this restricted access site.

[Register Here](#)



New Checklist Available

Come by the Ranch to pick up a printed copy of our newest checklist or

download your copy [here](#). Now, as you might expect, this new version promises to be outdated almost immediately after release (Dusky Warbler comes to mind) and a few other changes. In fact, we have a plan for that. We will continue to produce printed copies at least once a year (October, usually) but we will update the downloadable versions throughout the year. When updates become available, we will notify you via the AVOCET Update and a link will be posted to our home page.



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