Say No to Sprawl: No on Measure B, Yes on Measure C

by Shani Kleinhaus and Mackenzie Mossing, SCVAS Environmental Advocacy Team

On June 5th, San Jose voters will have the chance to say “no” to sprawl by voting NO on Measure B and YES on Measure C. Measure B, or the “Evergreen Senior Homes Initiative,” allows developers to circumvent environmental review for a 200-acre gated community in Evergreen while covertly facilitating residential sprawl into the habitat and open spaces of Coyote Valley. The initiative was crafted and funded by two billionaire developers hoping to bypass the normal planning process in order to create their own more profitable set of rules for development that would force residents to subsidize the costs and consequences. That is why all of San Jose’s leaders, including Mayor Liccardo and all ten City Council Members, are opposed to Measure B (check out: www.noonbsj.com/who-says-no.html).

cont’d on page 8
May-June Field Trips
Please carpool if possible; bring binoculars, field guides, layered clothing. LO = Lunch optional; RC = Heavy rain cancels; NF = No facilities available

**Please note: Online registration is required for all field trips.**

This is a simple but necessary step to ensure our trips run as smoothly as possible. Please RSVP by going to scvas.org (look for Calendar, then Field Trips), then find your trip and follow the easy registration directions. A confirmation email will follow. If you have any questions, please call Kelsey Frey at (408) 252-3740.

Thank you!

Wednesday, May 2, 12:00PM
City of Sunnyvale Landfill
One hour. **Leader:** Allen Royer. Contact landfill coordinator, Silviana Ruiz, with questions at (408) 730-7545. **Directions:** Donald M. Somers Water Pollution Control Plant, turn into Borregas and then turn left at the T intersection. Meet under the pepper tree across from the Portapotty. **Difficulty:** Birding geared toward beginners. **Notes:** Bring binoculars; loaners available. **RC**

Saturday, May 5, 8:00AM
Monte Bello Open Space Preserve
Half day. **Leader:** Kirsten Holmquist, (408) 747-0988. **Directions:** From I-280 in Palo Alto take Page Mill Rd west, toward Skyline Blvd (Hwy 35), for approx. 7 miles. Meet at Monte Bello OSP parking area on the left. **Highlights:** Possible Lazuli Bunting, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Grasshopper Sparrows. **Notes:** Be prepared, it can be cold, wet and foggy. **RC**

Sunday, May 6, 9:00AM
Charleston Slough
Half day. **Leader:** Allen Royer, (408) 288-7768. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 in Mountain View take San Antonio Rd north to Terminal Way parking area. Meet at entrance nearest San Antonio Rd. **Notes:** For beginning birders but all are encouraged to attend. Bring your spotting scope and a friend.

Wednesday, May 9, 8:00AM
New Almaden Township
Half day. **Leaders:** Janna Pauser, (408) 569-9264 or jannapauser@gmail.com, and Eve Meier. **Directions:** From Hwy 85 in San Jose, take Almaden Expwy south for 4.3 miles. Keep right at Y and drive through New Almaden Township. Park in Almaden-Quicksilver Hacienda parking lot on your right, which opens at 8:00AM. We'll bird through New Almaden Township on Almaden and Bertram Roads. **Difficulty:** Easy walking. **Notes:** Early start time. **RC, LO**

Thursday, May 10, 11:00AM
Shoreline Riparian to Baylands
2 hours. **Leader:** Ralph Schardt, (408) 624-7845. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 take Shoreline exit and head for the bay. Turn right on Crittenden Ln and continue to the end. Parking is available on the right in the nursery - look for Audubon Trip Leader to know where to park. Carpool if possible. We will hike along a trail that is in the area next to Stevens Creek where it comes out to the bay. **Highlights:** Riparian birds as well as raptors and shorebird birds. **Difficulty:** Easy walk with places to stop on bridges over the creek for better access to birds and scoping. **Notes:** Bring binoculars and/or cameras. **RC, LO**

Saturday, May 12, 8:15AM
Alum Rock Park
Half day. **Leader:** Jim Johnson, (408) 996-3506. **Directions:** From Hwy 101 or I-680 take McKee Rd north-east toward hills then left on Toyon Ave, right on Penitencia Creek Rd, and continue into park. Pass under bridge and meet at far end of upper parking lot. **Difficulty:** Moderately strenuous 3-4 mile-walk. **Notes:** Vehicle entry fee required. **RC**

Sunday, May 13, 9:00AM
Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve
Half day. **Leader:** Ralph Schardt, (408) 624-7845. **Directions:** From Hwy 237 take Great America Pkwy south for about 0.8 miles, turn left on Tasman Dr for about one mile, right on Lick Mill Blvd, and meet at the south park entrance on the left. **Highlights:** We’ll look for migrants and local breeding birds in diverse habitats. **RC**

Saturday, May 19, 8:15AM
Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve
Half day. **Leader:** Rich Page, (408) 377-1092. **Directions:** Meet at the Vista Point Pullout located on the bay side of Skyline Blvd (Hwy 35) a little over a mile northwest of Page Mill Rd. **Highlights:** Possible Grasshopper Sparrow and Lazuli Bunting. **Notes:** Bring extra layers of clothing in case it is foggy and cold. **RC, NF**

Sunday, May 20, 8:30AM
Sanborn County Park
Half day. **Leader:** Dave Zittin, (408) 515-7104. **Directions:** Either take Stevens Creek Canyon Rd, Hwy 85 S, or Pierce Rd to get on Hwy 9. From Hwy 9, take Sanborn Rd. Follow the road and meet in the large parking lot. On Google Maps, this lot is labeled Youth Science Institute. **Notes:** Entrance fee required. **LO**

Saturday, May 26, 8:00AM
Ulistac Natural Area
Half day. **Leader:** Chris Johnson, (831) 601-8260. **Directions:** From Hwy 237 take Great America Pkwy south for about 0.8 miles, turn left on Tasman Dr for about one mile, right on Lick Mill Blvd, and meet at the south park entrance on the left. **Highlights:** We’ll look for migrants and local breeding birds in diverse habitats. **RC**
### Field Trips cont’d

**Saturday, June 2, 8:00AM**  
**Rancho del Oso**  
*(Coastal Big Basin State Park)*  
Half day plus. **Leader:** Rich Page *(408) 377-1092.*  
**Directions:** Take Hwy 17 to Santa Cruz, and then go north on Hwy 1. Meet at the beach parking area alongside Hwy 1 just north of Waddell Creek Bridge (at MP 36.30; which is 2 miles south of Año Nuevo State Park and 7 miles north of Davenport). **Highlights:** Swainson’s Thrush, Pacific Wren, Wilson’s Warbler, and Woodpeckers. **Difficulty:** Moderately long but fairly level hike along Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail. **Notes:** Variable weather, dress in layers.  
*RC*

**Wednesday, June 6, 12:00PM**  
**City of Sunnyvale Landfill**  
One hour. **Leader:** Allen Royer.  
Contact landfill coordinator, Silviana Ruiz, with questions at *(408) 730-7545.* See write-up for May 2.  
*RC*

**Saturday, June 9, 8:15AM**  
**Stevens Creek County Park**  
Half day. **Leader:** Jim Johnson *(408) 996-3506.*  
**Directions:** From I-280 in Cupertino take Foothill Expy south and follow Foothill Blvd south (it becomes Stevens Canyon Rd) for 2.1 miles. Turn left into first park entrance and meet in the Chestnut Picnic Area parking lot. **Difficulty:** Moderately strenuous walk looking for migrants and local breeding birds in a riparian area. **Notes:** Vehicle entry fee required.  
*RC*

**Sunday, June 10, 9:00AM**  
**Palo Alto Baylands**  
Half day. **Leader:** Allen Royer *(408) 288-7768.*  
**Directions:** From Hwy 101 in Palo Alto turn right onto Embarcadero Rd. At the stop sign (not light), go left and follow the road past the duck pond to the parking lot across from Lucy Evans Center. Meet at the poles/gate to San Francisquito Creek Trail (towards Lucy Evans Center). **Difficulty:** For beginning birders but all are encouraged to attend. **Notes:** Bring your spotting scope and a friend.  
*RC*

**Wednesday, June 13, 8:00AM**  
**Almaden Lake (East Side) and Alamitos Creek Trail**  
Half day. **Leaders:** Janna Pauser *(408) 569-9264* or jannapauser@gmail.com, and Hugh McDevitt.  
**Directions:** From Hwy 85 in San Jose take Almaden Expy south 0.8 miles, then left onto Coleman Rd. Turn right onto Winfield and park on street near entrance gate, or pay $6.00 fee for parking lot. Meet near blue bathrooms. **Highlights:** Breeding birds. **Difficulty:** Easy walking. **Notes:** Early start time.  
*RC, LO*

**Saturday, June 16, 8:00AM**  
**Charleston Slough**  
Half day. **Leader:** Nick Yatsko *(408) 891-3187.*  
**Directions:** Meet at Terminal Way at the end of San Antonio Rd, north off Hwy 101 in Mountain View. **Notes:** All are encouraged to attend, but birding will be geared towards beginners.  
*RC*

**Saturday, June 23, 9:00AM**  
**Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve**  
Half day. **Leader:** Ralph Schardt *(408) 624-7845.* See write-up for May 13.  
*LO*

**Saturday, June 30, 8:00AM**  
**Ulistac Natural Area**  
Half day. **Leader:** Chris Johnson *(831) 601-8260.* See write-up for May 26.  
*RC*

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### Summer Excursions

**Monterey Bay Whale and Bird Watching with Cheesemans’ Ecology Safaris**  
Join us for an incredible day of whale watching and birding aboard the *Star of Monterey*. We’ll be looking for Blue Whales, Humpback Whales, Sea Otters, and dolphins, along with some amazing seabirds - shearwaters, jaegers, skuas, albatross, and alcids. Grab your binoculars and get ready for an adventure!

**To register, contact Cheesemans’ Ecology Safaris at (408) 741-5330 or info@cheesemans.com.**

**Date:** Sunday, 7/1; 7:30AM-4:00PM.  
**Location:** Fisherman’s Wharf in Monterey  
**Fee:** $160/person
Our annual Birdathon began on March 25th, and we are well on our way! As of this newsletter’s publication date, we have 20 teams registered, and 5 teams have already been out birding. So far we have raised over $10,000 for our education and conservation work, including our Wetlands Discovery Program, which reaches hundreds of elementary students in Santa Clara County every year!

Team Highlights
The Sitting Ducks, led by Chuq von Rospach, were the first of our intrepid teams to venture out, kicking off this year’s Birdathon with a Big Sit at Shoreline. They spotted 50 species in four hours, including 11 species of ducks, and 4 species of grebes (Pied-billed, Eared, Western, and Clark’s). Other highlights included a Belted Kingfisher successfully capturing a huge fish, and a pair of enthusiastic Northern Mockingbirds determined to make birding by ear a true challenge. $2,500 has been raised by this team so far!

Our youngest participants were The Fledglings, led by Vivek Khanzode, and made up of five students ranging in age from middle to high school. They hit Charleson Slough first thing in the morning, then toured the Palo Alto Baylands, and ended at McClellan Ranch for their birding excursion of the South San Francisco Bay Area. The Fledglings put together a fantastic list of 107 species in just four hours! They were lucky enough to see a Great Horned Owl, and we are very impressed with their successful fundraising efforts - so far they have raised over $1,200!

Top Fundraising Teams
1. Sitting Ducks
2. Rock Wrens
3. The Fledglings

Top Fundraising Individuals
1. Renée Polizotto
2. Bob Hirt
3. Carolyn Straub

Prize Highlights
We have some stellar prizes for participants this year, all thanks to our fantastic sponsors!

• Chuq von Rospach donated a pair of compact 10x28 Diamondback Binoculars.
• Renée Polizotto and Julio Mulero gifted a fully stocked picnic backpack, complete with a $25 Trader Joe’s giftcard and a bottle of wine.
• Bob Hirt and Mike Mammoser are leading a customized birding adventure, and will help the recipient track down a desired species or explore a specific location of their choosing.
• Local nature photographers and birders Chuq von Rospach and Steven Patt have donated amazing bird prints!
• And many more! Take a peek at scvas.org/birdathon, and click on “Prizes.”

Thanks to all of our participants, team leaders, prize sponsors, and donors for your support and enthusiasm! Although the birding window for Birdathon is now closed, we will continue to collect donations until Monday, May 14th at 5:00PM.

** Don’t forget! The Birdathon Awards Dinner will be held at McClellan Ranch at 6:00PM on Tuesday, June 5th. Food and refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP at scvas.org/birdathon or find the dinner on our calendar. Dinner will include prize announcements, a silent auction, games, and fun for all!

Questions? Email Birdathon Coordinator, Carolyn Knight, at scvasbirdathon@gmail.com

Left to right: A Rock Wren and a Western Bluebird, both taken by Ralph Schardt during the Shrikes of Joy Birdathon outing.

The Fledglings were treated to the sight of a beautiful rainbow, along with amazing birds!

The Fledglings spread their wings and searched far and wide for new species during their Birdathon.
County Parks: A Vital Tool in Preserving Nature
Santa Clara County Parks is updating their strategic parks plan to guide the department’s next twenty years. Despite the public’s resounding calls for natural resource preservation, the original proposed vision for the plan was initially weak on emphasizing the importance of protecting nature. We wrote a joint letter and spoke up at the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors meeting, urging them to modify the vision. Our advocacy paid off! Supervisor Simitian directed staff to add “responsible resource stewardship” to the vision. We also had the opportunity to review a draft of the plan with staff, and we were pleased to see strategies and goals that aim to include citizen science and to preserve sensitive landscapes and habitats for special-status species.

A Win for Coyote Creek!
In late February, we learned that a site immediately adjacent to Coyote Creek in South San Jose was being considered for a bridge housing community. While SCVAS is supportive of transitional housing for the homeless, we believe this site is not in an appropriate location for a bridge housing community considering the sensitive riparian habitat and the distance from public transit and amenities (it is isolated in an industrial area). We wrote a letter to City Council urging them to drop the site from consideration and instead expedite the process for a more appropriate site in District 3. Just a few days later, we learned that the site was removed from the list and the land will soon be transferred to Santa Clara County Parks!

Pushing Campbell to Protect Birds and Nature
With the help of our friends at the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, California Native Plant Society Santa Clara Valley Chapter, and South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition, we authored a letter to the City of Campbell asking for their new general plan to include a vision, goals, and policies that protect nature. As the City looks to “revitalize” the Los Gatos Creek Corridor with new development, we emphasized the importance of riparian setbacks, preserving and planting native trees, and bird-safe building design. We will continue to follow the planning process while advocating for nature and garnering support from the community.

Heartbreak at Overfelt Gardens Park
In March, we learned that an overzealous volunteer took park maintenance instructions too far and decimated the California Wild native garden and wildlife sanctuary in San Jose’s Overfelt Gardens Park. Our advocacy team surveyed the damage with heavy hearts: big, beautiful Toyon shrubs reduced to stumps, young oak trees hacked into pieces, and piles of leaf litter removed from the garden. Considering how important this park is to birds and birders, we are working diligently with the Parks and Recreation Department, San Jose Parks Advocates and San Jose State University students to ameliorate the problem and discuss preventative measures so that incidents like this cannot happen again. The San Jose Parks Department will develop a recovery and management plan for California Wild, and we expect to be invited to contribute to this plan. We will make sure the native garden is restored to its former glory for people, birds, and wildlife to enjoy.

Why SCVAS Supports LAFCO
The Santa Clara Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) was created in 1963 by the State Legislature to curb urban sprawl through overseeing the boundaries of cities and preserving agricultural lands and open space. Today, cities and districts in Santa Clara County are required to obtain LAFCO’s approval for boundary changes (such as annexations) and to provide services outside of a city’s boundaries. SCVAS fully supports the mission of LAFCO and believes the commission is a vital tool in preserving open space and habitat for birds. During a LAFCO workshop in March, we spoke in support of LAFCO’s objectives and reminded commissioners that their responsibility is to uphold the law, even when it means that they have to say no to proposals.
Field Notes
(February-March 2018)
by Pete Dunten

Geese through Owls
Small numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese were present throughout the end of March, with high counts of six at the Santa Jose/Santa Clara WPCP (DWN) and nearby Arzino Ranch on 3 Feb (CDB, DDB), twelve at Byxbee Park on 4 Feb (WGB), nine at the Shoreline Lake kite flying area on 12 Mar (GL), and nine nearby at Byxbee Park on 25 Mar (WGB). The

Red-throated Loon by Garrett Lau

High counts of Cackling Geese were nineteen on 2 Feb at Los Gatos Creek CP (ER, DZ) and ten on 14 Mar flying over the Coyote Creek Field Station (AR). The hybrid male Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal was noted again in Mallard Slough on 11 and 12 Mar (MJM, JuH, DSc). The Eurasian Green-winged Teal at the North VTA Mitigation Pond stayed through 9 Mar (RJ) and the Eurasian Teal at Coast Casey Forebay was found through the end of March (MJ, m. ob.). The last date a Barrow’s Goldeneye remained at Shoreline Lake was 13 Mar (DZ). A Red-throated Loon frequented Shoreline Lake between 7 and 11 Mar (FV, m. ob.). The Pelagic Cormorant found the last week of January was seen once more on the levee between Alviso Salt Ponds A14 and A11 on 1 Feb (JVs). The American Bittern in the channel at the end of Terminal Way was noted again on 16 Feb (WGB). It can be remarkably hard to find for such a large bird. An evening gathering of Northern Harriers along Laguna Ave in coyote Valley totaled 21 birds on 8 Feb (RPh). The number of harriers wintering in the county is greater than the number of breeding residents, and the location of this winter roost is far from the harrier’s known breeding grounds in the county. Two Swainson’s Hawks on migration were seen riding thermals over Pearson-Arastradero Preserve on 18 Mar (RFu et al.). Three overwintering Ferruginous Hawks were over Coyote Ridge on 3 Feb (CE). The latest date one was seen was 6 Mar, in the south county along Gilroy Hot Springs Rd (DZ). Black Oystercatchers were extremely rare this far south in SF Bay until 2015; since then at least one has been found every year. This year, the first sighting was of one at the San Francisquito Creek Delta on 28 Mar (JL). A Glaucous Gull rested on one of the islands at Alviso Salt Pond A16 on 9 – 11 Mar (DN, BH, MJM, et al.). Our first Caspian Tern of the year arrived on 28 Mar at Palo Alto Baylands (GL). None have been reported from Alviso Salt Pond A16, where they have nested in recent years. This year the terns will have to establish a colony without help from decoys and recorded calls. A Black Skimmer returned on 13 Feb to Charleston Slough (CnB), and through the remainder of Feb and Mar the high count was only three at Charleston Slough, on 12 Mar (GL). A single Short-eared Owl was seen in coyote Valley near the OSP at the end of Palm Ave between 13 Feb (RPh) and 3 Mar (VT).

The Avocet 6

Hummingbirds through Solitaires
Rufous Hummingbirds on migration turned up on 1 Feb in Almaden Valley (MFa) and on 2 Feb on the Stanford Campus (RFu). A female Allen’s Hummingbird on a nest outside Gilroy near Uvas Creek on 22 Feb was a nice find (JMy). The nest held three eggs on 6 Mar (JMy). A male Allen’s Hummingbird was displaying on 27 Mar at San Felipe Rd not far from Pacheco Creek (PDu). Nesting at this location is a possibility, though it has not been confirmed. Up to two Lewis’s Woodpeckers were seen at Chesbro Reservoir through 26 Mar (JPa). The woodpeckers have been present since late October of last year. One was noted on 24 Feb at Coyote Valley OSP (RPh, LM); the first report from this location was in early January. A Red-naped Sapsucker was found along the Coyote Creek Trail below Anderson Dam on 16 Feb (JH). The Red-naped Sapsucker wintering at Almaden Lake Park was present as late as 5 Mar (SPz). Two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were discovered in March, one at Rancho Cañada del Oro on 5 Mar (JPa, KB), and one at Vasona Lake CP on 29 Mar (SLC). The sapsucker at Rancho Cañada del Oro was seen again on 6 Mar (RPh) and 11 Mar (BM); the Vasona Lake sapsucker was found again on 30 Mar (SLC). The only Empidonax flycatcher that nests in the county is also the first to arrive in the spring. Single Pacific-slope Flycatchers were found at McClellan Ranch Preserve (MJM) and in Stevens Creek CP (BM) on 24 Mar. The Vermilion Flycatcher in coyote Valley stayed through 13 Mar (MJM). Western Kingbirds returned on 28 Mar, when two were seen at coyote ridge OSP and one was at coyote Valley OSP (both GL). The quarrel-
some songs of Warbling Vireos can be heard again, another sure sign of spring. The first arrival was at Coyote Lake CP on 9 Mar, and the second at Rancho Cañada del Oro on 11 Mar (both ER). A Townsend’s Solitaire was a nice find in the NW section of Henry Coe SP on 25 Feb (SPz). A second visited a Los Altos neighborhood well-provisioned with fruiting Blue Elders on 14 Mar (KBe).

Warblers through Evening Grosbeak

Nashville Warblers are most often found in the county as spring migrants moving north along the Diablo Range. They are occasionally found in the winter; this winter one was at Ulistac NA on 26 and 28 Feb (PB, RPh, JVs). Single wintering Yellow Warblers were at the Sunnyvale WPCP from 7 Feb to 6 Mar (EvM, STu, JRu) and at Los Gatos Creek CP on 18 Mar (DZ), when six were tallied. A Song Sparrow from one of the Pacific Northwest groups was at the Mountain View Forebay on 13 Mar (WGB). All of the sightings of Pacific Northwest Song Sparrows this winter have been of birds near water, either the Bay edge or along the Guadalupe River. A Swamp Sparrow’s characteristic call gave it away at Alviso Marina on 25 Mar (BM). The sparrow was refound through 29 Mar (m. ob.). They are occasionally found in April and even early May (fide WGB). Single Slate-colored Juncos visited a feeder in San Jose on 15 Feb (RWR) and the Pueblo Picnic Area in Santa Teresa CP on 7 Mar (BM). The first Black-throated Gray Warbler was noted late in the month on 23 Mar outside Gilroy (JMy) and the second on 31 Mar at Rancho Cañada del Oro (MDo). Two more signs of spring arrived earlier on the same date, 19 Mar. Our first Hooded Oriole was visiting a hummingbird feeder in San Jose on that date (fide LM). The second Hooded Oriole to arrive was on 25 Mar at Ed Levin CP (STu). Our first Bullock’s Oriole visited Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 19 Mar (BB). The second arrivals were on 27 Mar in the southern part of the county, when one was in Gilroy along Uvas Creek.

Nashville Warbler by Jason Vassallo

24 Feb (KH et al.). Two more wintering warblers were noted in February, a Black-throated Gray Warbler at Overfelt Gardens on 3 Feb (RJ), and a Wilson’s Warbler at Lake Ranch in Sanborn CP on 24 Feb (ER, DZ, STu). The Chipping Sparrows wintering at TJ Martin Park stayed until San Jose on that date (fide LM). The second Hooded Oriole to arrive was on 25 Mar at Ed Levin CP (STu). Our first Bullock’s Oriole visited Sunnyvale Baylands Park on 19 Mar (BB). The second arrivals were on 27 Mar in the southern part of the county, when one was in Gilroy along Uvas Creek.

Observers: Patrick Baglee (PB), Kathleen Bendler (KBe), Cynthia Berg (CNB), Bob Bolles (BB), Bill Bousman (WGB), Karen Burnson (KB), Cedro De Bryl (CDB), Domon De Bryl (DBB), Matthew Dodder (MDo), Pete Dunten (PD), Craige Edgerton (CE), Marion Farber (MFa), Rob Furrow (RF), Jane Haley (JH), Julie Hart (JuH), Bob Hirt (BH), Kirsten Holquist (KH), Richard Jeffers (RJ), Melissa Johnson (MJ), Garrett Lau (GL), Susan LeClair (SLC), Jasen Liu (JL), Mike Mammoser (MIM), Jeff Manker (JMN), Eve Meier (EvM), Jean Myers (JMY), Lisa Myers (LM), David Nickerson (DN), Janna Pauser (JPa), Sergio Perez (SPz), Ryan Phillips (RPh), Bob Reiling (RWR), Alex Rinkert (AR), Edward Rooks (ER), Judy Rudolph (JR), Daniel Schlaepfer (DSC), Vivek Tiwari (VT), Steve Tucker (STu), Frank Vanslager (FV), Jason Vassallo (JVs), Dan Wenny (DWn), David Zittin (DZ)

Please send notice of rarities to Pete Dunten via email at pdunten@gmail.com
Tucked away in 367 pages of fine print, Measure B establishes a loophole in San Jose’s General Plan that could allow all commercial or industrial land to be converted into housing. Except for a couple of high rises in downtown, this means that any land that supports employment (strip malls, low rise office parks) or is vacant but designated for employment (Coyote Valley, North San Jose, Almaden) could easily be transformed into sprawling subdivisions. The threat of industrial development has loomed over Coyote Valley for decades. Measure B accelerates this threat.

Recognizing Measure B as a serious danger to San Jose, the City added a charter amendment to June’s ballot in order to counteract Measure Bshould it pass. This charter amendment, Measure C, would thwart residential sprawl in places like Coyote Valley by making it infeasible to convert employment land within one mile of the Urban Growth Boundary into any other use except for open space, parks, or public services. Measure C will help protect San Jose’s residents and the environment by keeping the community, rather than the developers, in control of development.

Time after time, SCVAS has fought hard to save Coyote Valley from bulldozers and to preserve the land as critical wildlife corridor and habitat for migratory birds. We will not give up until we win this fight, but we need your help! Join us in speaking up for Coyote Valley’s open space, birds and wildlife: sign up to volunteer for the campaign to defeat Measure B at www.noonbsj.com/take-action.html. Vote NO on Measure B and YES on Measure C.

Please join SCVAS and Audubon California in voting YES on Proposition 68

SCVAS is joining Audubon California and a broad coalition of conservation organizations in supporting Proposition 68 on the June 5 California ballot. These groups have cited numerous potential benefits to California’s birds and other natural treasures, as well as the state’s residents. Called the California Clean Water & Safe Parks Act, Prop. 68 is a $4 billion bond measure that will fund a number of important priorities for Californians, including local, regional and state parks, clean drinking water projects, flood protection, and habitat projects that are vital to the state’s diverse wildlife.

Audubon California was part of a broad coalition of organizations working closely with lawmakers during the 2017 legislative session to put Prop. 68 on the ballot. This critical opportunity comes at a time when millions of Californians do not have access to safe parks, trails, and recreation areas. Moreover, the cycle of drought and extreme weather is already taking a toll on California’s natural treasures, and threatens our communities with flooding and ecological degradation.

These same forces have also exposed our state’s antiquated water infrastructure, bringing into doubt our ability to provide clean, safe, and reliable drinking water to our residents. Lastly, with most of the bond funding for vital conservation programs running out in the last few years, it is time for Californians to make the next investment in the protection of the natural resources that make California’s parks and open spaces destinations for millions of visitors every year.

Proposition 68 includes funding for a broad array of conservation priorities:

$2.83 billion for parks and natural resources funding
- Investments in park-poor neighborhoods
- Much-needed maintenance for state parks
- Trails and creek restoration
- Funding for critical restoration at the Salton Sea

$1.27 billion for water reliability
- Clean drinking water projects
- Groundwater clean-up and sustainability
- Flood protection, including multi-benefit flood projects

$767 million for state conservancies
- Vital landscape-scale conservation work
- Ocean, bay, and coastal protection

$442 million for climate adaptation
- Projects to ensure habitat connectivity
- Collaborations on climate-smart farm practices
- Rivers and waterways restoration

From SCVAS Executive Director, Ralph Schardt:

“Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and its education programs, field trips, and conservation efforts depend on clean water, safe parks, and regional open space. That is why SCVAS endorses Proposition 68. Your support is appreciated.”
SCVAS Events Calendar

Wed. 5/2; 7:30-9:00PM
Bay Area Bird Photographers
Embarcadero Room, Rinconada Library
1213 Newell Rd, Palo Alto, CA
Topic 5/2: “Birds and Wildlife of Patagonia and Antarctica”
with Vivek Khanzode
See scvas.org/babp for more details.

Tues. 5/8 & 6/12; 10:00AM
Eve Case Bird Discussion Group
Meets at the home of Rosalind Roberts: 100 Kathy Ct, Los Gatos. Call Rosalind with questions at (408) 395-6631.
Topic 5/8: Pick your own bird topic
Topic 6/12: Annual picnic (venue TBD)

Fri. 5/11 & 6/15; 12:30-2:00PM
Nature Journaling with John Muir Laws
McClellan Ranch Preserve, Cupertino
Free workshops for all ages! No RSVP required; please be on time. See calendar at scvas.org for more details.

SCVAS Classes

We are pleased to offer the following classes to our members and community. For full descriptions and to register, visit our website at scvas.org and find the class in our calendar.

Outdoor Photography with an Intro to Digiscoping

Dates: Tuesday, May 22 and Thursday, June 14  Time: 9:00-11:00AM
Location: McClellan Ranch, Cupertino - Meet at SCVAS
Cost: Free! for members, $15 non-members
Note: Rain cancels, with refund or credit for future classes.
Topic: Explore outdoor photography opportunities at McClellan Ranch with our Executive Director, Ralph Schardt. We will review photography equipment needed for outdoor conditions and how to take advantage of natural light. We will also introduce a different way to do macro photography, so bring your telephoto lens if you have one. A brief introduction to digiscoping will follow. Wear layers and clothing appropriate for an easy hike on level, but unpaved trails.

Beginner’s Bird and Plant ID Walk Series

Date: Saturday, June 16  Time: 9:00AM-12:00PM
Location: Lake Cunningham Park
Cost: Free! $6 Parking fee is required.
Register: RSVP through Meetup.com (“California Native Plant Society - Santa Clara Valley Chapter” or “Open Space Appreciation Hiking Enthusiasts”)
Session #2: First Day of Summer
Topic: Do you love being outdoors? Do you want to deepen your appreciation of nature by learning to identify the birds and plants around you? At the onset of summer, join us for a beginner’s bird and plant identification walk through Lake Cunningham Park - a major destination for waterfowl and migratory birds. Vicki Silvas-Young will show you how to identify common local birds and the native plants they depend on for food, shelter, and nesting places. Trip distance is four miles round-trip on a level path.
*Organized by California Native Plant Society, SCVAS, and Open Space Authority*

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**Friends of SCVAS**
*Gifts received February 1st through March 31st, 2018*

**Gift (Up to $99)**
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**Avocet Sponsor**
($100-$249)
- Karen McCreddin
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**Burrowing Owl**
($250-$499)
- Gordon & Carolyn Davidson
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**Peregrine Falcon**
($500-$999)
- David McIntyre
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**Golden Eagle**
($1000+)
- Patricia Brennan Foundation
- Philippe Cohen
- Bob Hart
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- Tina Petigni
- Donna & Darwin Poulos
- April Pufahl
- Harjeet Randhawa
- Tate & Curtis Snyder
- Martin Sorensen
- Marcella Stauber
- Ruth Van Sciver
- Mary Wisnewski

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**Young Audubon**
For more information and to register, visit scvas.org and click "Kid’s Corner," then "Young Audubon."

**Conservation in Action: Bird Banding with SFBBO**
Saturday, May 19; 7:30-10:00AM
Join us at the peak of the spring migration for a special opportunity to witness live bird banding demonstrations by experts from San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO). Cost: $25/family or $8/child*, $10/adult
*Children must be at least 7 years old and accompanied by an adult

**Audubon Naturalist Training**
Monday-Friday, July 16-24, 9:00AM-12:00PM
Improve your high school student’s outdoor skills with training in navigation, wildlife and plant identification, and nature interpretation. Students will gain knowledge of the ecology of California and confidence in their ability to share that knowledge with others. An Audubon Naturalist certification will be awarded upon completion of training.
Cost: $125/member or $175/non-member

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*The Avocet 10*
Nature Shop

Hours:
M 10:00AM-4:00PM
T-F 9:00AM-4:30PM
Sat 10:00AM-2:00PM

Liberty Graphics t-shirts are 100% made in the USA! They also use water-based ink - better for you, and the planet! All t-shirts come in S, M, L, XL, have the SCVAS logo on the sleeve, and are $23.50 each.

These Great Blue Heron and Sandhill Crane t-shirts are designed by celebrated ornithologist, author, and illustrator David Sibley.

These t-shirts feature original creations by Earth Art International artist Sue Coccia. The Butterfly and the Bee designs come in ladies' sizes only.

Check out our new SCVAS logo dark blue hoodie! Priced at $40.00.
New Members of SCV AS

Those who joined February 1st - March 31st, 2018.
We look forward to a great year with your support!

Raminder Bajwa
Ellis Bigelow
Kathleen Boone
Clifford Bryant
Isabelle Cole
Michael Dodson
Mary Helen Doherty
Steve Drenker
Randy Fox
Pam Frey
Regina Garcia
Karan Gathani
Pam Handley
John Harshman
Diana Holland
Svetlana Klier
Kaushik Lakshiminarayanan
Jumana Latif
Kathleen Ludowise
Kenneth Mamitsuka
Barbara Millin
Raj Minhas
Jason Panza
Andrea Perrault
Kevin Pinson
Judy Rudolph
Ryan Schilling
John Sims
Walter & Judith Sleeth
Michael Smith
Mary Tietz
Ruth Van Sciver
Thu Vu
Coburn Watson
Jim White
Mary Yan
Svejana Zorko

And thank you to those who renewed their membership!

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www.scvas.org

SCV AS is a private, non-profit corporation affiliated with the National Audubon Society.

MONTHLY SPEAKER SERIES are held on the third Wednesday of each month except July, August and December and are open to the public. Details available on the SCVS website.

NATURE SHOP HOURS
Monday
10:00AM - 4:00PM
Tuesday - Friday
9:00AM - 4:30PM
Saturday
10:00AM - 2:00PM

Please call (408) 252-3747 for special requests.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS meetings are open to all members. Call the office at (408) 252-3747 for times and directions.

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