Welcome to Our New Executive Director!

Please join the SCVAS board and staff in welcoming Matthew Dodder as our chapter’s new Executive Director. Many of you already know Matthew as a top-notch birder, highly-regarded teacher of adult birding classes, and former SCVAS board member. Along with his lifelong love of birds, he brings to SCVAS decades of experience in graphic design and marketing.

Matthew often describes himself as an "Avian Evangelist." That passion is a perfect match to SCVAS's core mission - "Inspiring people of all ages to care about birds." Please plan to meet Matthew for yourself by attending the Annual SCVAS Member Dinner on Saturday, July 13th. Tickets are available [here](#). We hope to see you there!

Looking for a New Editor

Due to recent staffing changes, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is currently looking for a new editor for *The Avocet*. Familiarity with Photoshop and InDesign recommended but not required. Please contact Carolyn Knight at programs@scvas.org if interested.

Annual Dinner

Join SCVAS in celebrating our wonderful members and volunteers at Shoup Park on Saturday, July 13. Dinner includes live music, a talk by Nathan Pieplow, and a silent auction.

$25 per person

Conservation Corner

It has been a busy time for Advocacy these past few months! Check out what our Environmental Advocate, Shani Kleinhaus has been up to in your neighborhood:

[Read More Here](#)

Birdathon Wrap-up

2019 saw a fantastic effort by the participants of Birdathon, raising more than $39,000 in support of SCVAS’s education
Hey Birders,

After almost three years as part of the SCVAS team, it is time for me to say goodbye. It is incredible to think about the experiences this organization brought me in such a short amount of time, and I am grateful to all of you for that. Beyond birding basics, you have taught me so much about what it means to be dedicated to a life of environmental stewardship. Thank you for taking the time to share your passion for birds and the environment with me.

I congratulate Matthew Dodder on accepting the Executive Director position and am excited to see the new direction for SCVAS! Thanks again to everyone for your support. I’ll see you out on the trail.

As always, happy birding!

Kelly Alfrey

Field Trips

Wednesday, July 3, 12-1pm. Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant
Explore weedy-edged, tule-lined brackish canals and a salt pond for egrets, herons, grebes, ducks, and terns. Good trip for beginners. Call ahead for loaner binoculars. 1 mile, flat trail.
Meet: Bay Trail parking on Carl Rd.
Allen Royer, (408) 288-7768.
Family friendly, ages 10+
RSVP HERE

Wednesday, July 10, 8:15-10am. Almaden Lake Park and Los Alamitos Creek Trail
Explore this riparian habitat for Warbling Vireos, Western Tanagers, and Black-headed Grosbeaks. 2 miles, paved bike path.
Meet: Winfield Blvd parking.  
Eve Meier, (408) 569-9391.  
Wheelchair accessible  
RSVP HERE

Saturday, July 13, 8-10:30am.  
Charleston Slough  
Visit this tidal estuary and nearby salt pond, marsh, and small lake for avocets, stilts, and other goodies. Good trip for beginners.  2 miles, flat trails.  
Meet: Terminal Blvd at end of San Antonio Rd., Mountain View.  
Nick Yatsko (408) 891-3187.  
Family friendly, ages 14+  
RSVP HERE

Saturday, July 27, 9-11:30am.  
Palo Alto Baylands  
Explore salt marsh, mud flats, lagoon and duck pond. For beginning birders but all are encouraged to attend. Call ahead for loaner binoculars.  2 miles, flat trails.  
Meet: Front of Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center  
Allen Royer, (408) 288-7768  
Family friendly, ages 10+  
RSVP HERE

Sunday, July 28, 9-10:30am.  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
We’ll bird the pond, if it is full, and the Guadalupe River in search of ducks, wading birds, and songbirds.  1 mile easy walking.  
Beginners welcome!  
Meet: 5700 Almaden Expy. Park in headquarters visitor parking (north end of large lot).  
Eve Meier, (408) 569-9391.  
RSVP HERE

Saturday, Aug 3, 8:00-10:00am.  
Año Nuevo State Park  
Possible Bank Swallow, Marbled Murrelet, Black Swift, and early returning shorebirds. Bring a scope, lunch, water, and dress in layers.  4 miles, half in sand.  
Meet: Far (south) end of parking lot. $10 parking fee.  
Norm Kikuchi, (831) 251-0666.  
Family friendly, ages 10+  
RSVP HERE

Saturday, Aug 3, 8:30am-12:30pm.  
Water Bird Photo Outing: Shoreline Park & Palo Alto Baylands  
Enjoy using your camera as a tool for observing birds! We will spend time at several spots near the water, photograph the birds that we see, and share camera tips. You’ll observe bird behavior and learn to identify some of the common birds found at the bay. Have fun taking pictures of birds together with others who share your enthusiasm. Naturalists and photographers of all levels are welcome. Bring binoculars and a camera with a zoom lens.  
Contact the organizers if you have questions about camera equipment. Easy 1-2 mile walk on flat paved or packed trails.  
Meet: End of Terminal Blvd.  
Mary Ann Robertson & Julie Amato,
RSVP HERE

Wednesday, Aug 7, 12-1pm.
Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant
Explore weedy-edged, tule-lined brackish canals and a salt pond for egrets, herons, grebes, ducks, and terns. Good trip for beginners. Call ahead for loaner binoculars. 1 mile, flat trail.
Meet: Bay Trail parking on Carl Rd.
Allen Royer, 408-288-7768.
Family friendly, ages 10+
RSVP HERE

Saturday, Aug 10, 9-11am.
Beginners: McClellan Ranch
Learn your backyard birds and more while we start at the McClellan Ranch bird feeders then stroll along the Stevens Creek trail. Binoculars available. 1.5 miles, flat paved path.
Meet: SCVAS Nature Shop.
Robin Chen, (908) 433-7558.
Family friendly, ages 10+
RSVP HERE

Sunday, Aug 11, 9-11:30am.
Palo Alto Baylands
Explore salt marsh, mud flats, lagoon and duck pond. For beginning birders but all are encouraged to attend. Call ahead for loaner binoculars. 2 miles, flat trails.
Meet: Front of Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center
Allen Royer, (408) 288-7768
Family friendly, ages 10+
RSVP HERE

Wednesday, Aug 14, 8am - 12pm.
Eden Landing Ecological Reserve
*Joint Event: SFBBO and SCVAS*
Look for banded Snowy Plovers with Ben Pearl to see if we can spot any locally fledged chicks. We will also look for Least Terns and other migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. 3 miles, level ground.
Meet: Parking lot at 26348 Eden Landing Rd., Hayward (south end of Eden Landing Road).
SFBBO Program Director Ben Pearl and SCVAS Education Specialist Carolyn Knight, (408) 252-3740
RSVP HERE

Saturday, Aug 17, 8-10:30am.
Charleston Slough
Visit this tidal estuary and nearby salt pond, marsh, and small lake for avocets, stilts, and other goodies. Good trip for beginners. 2 miles, flat trails.
Meet: Terminal Blvd at end of San Antonio Rd., Mountain View.
Nick Yatsko (408) 891-3187.
Family friendly, ages 14+
RSVP HERE
Sunday, Aug 18, 8:00-11:30am.
Sanborn County Park (main entrance)
Explore redwoods, oak-madrone forest, and riparian habitat for woodpeckers, creepers, and flycatchers. 3 miles, somewhat strenuous.
**Meet:** First large parking lot on your right after entry kiosk, credit card only vehicle entry fee.
**Dave Zittin, (408) 515-7104.**
[RSVP HERE]

Sunday, Aug 25, 4-6pm.
Drop-in: Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve
*Joint Event: OSA and SCVAS*
Drop in anytime during the event. SCVAS and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority docents will be in the parking lot with a scope and extra binoculars to help you spot Golden Eagles, Bullock’s Orioles, Northern Harriers, Western Kingbirds, and many others. This event is not a walk and is open to all levels of birding, including families and beginners.
**Meet:** preserve parking lot.
**Chuq Von Rospach, (408) 221-0797.**
*Family friendly, ages 10+. Wheelchair accessible*
[RSVP HERE]

Saturday, Aug 31, 8-10:30am.
Ulistac Natural Area
Ulistac, an urban open space with oak and riparian woodlands and seasonal wetland, contains the last 40 acres of natural, undeveloped land in Santa Clara along the Guadalupe River. Habitat restoration is ongoing with the removal of invasive species and the addition of California native plants. 2 miles, flat dirt trails and paved ramps up to the levee.
**Meet:** south park entrance. Nearest facilities across street at Lick Mill Park.
**Steve Tracey (408) 966-3860**
[RSVP HERE]