My Year at SCVAS

Giulianna Pendleton, Environmental Advocacy Assistant

I am so grateful to have spent this past year as SCVAS’s Environmental Advocacy Assistant. I have learned so much about advocacy and even more about myself and the place where I grew up. I found it fascinating that a small organization such as our SCVAS can have such an influential impact across Santa Clara County and even the state, and I think this speaks to the passion and dedication our team has for birds, nature and the community. The main thing I learned: advocacy is an ongoing effort. From education, to outreach, to research, to public speaking - advocacy requires all the tools in your toolbox, and a lot of common sense!

Positive Change

My time with SCVAS actually began as a volunteer trying to get more involved in my hometown. As Los Gatos updated their General Plan, I wanted to promote more environmental policies and programs. After meeting Shani Kleinhaus over Zoom, she helped me advocate for dark sky and bird safe design policies to be added to the General Plan Update - and I succeeded! The plan is currently being reviewed by the Planning Commission and the Town Council will consider it this summer. Now, more and more community members in Los Gatos are also speaking in favor of dark sky and bird protections in Los Gatos, amplifying our voice!

Shani and I have worked all across the County, and at the state level! After connecting with Assembly Member Alex Lee and talking about light pollution, he asked us to submit a bill proposal for reducing artificial light at night at the state level. It is now bill AB 2382 and SCVAS is a sponsor! This is an important initial step for implementing thoughtful outdoor lighting on state-owned properties in a state as big and influential as California.
BIRDATHON STORIES

**from the director’s desk**

As I mentioned in the Avocet Update for May, the past few months have been emotional. We suffered the loss of both Gail and Doug Cheeseman which was followed by an outpouring of moving stories from the many people who had experienced their friendship. There were multitudes of these! While many knew them longer than I, we all lost a part of our hearts when they left this world. (Refer to the Spring 2022 AVOCET for remembrances of Gail, and Allen Royer’s new eulogy for Doug in this issue).

Giuliana Pendleton, who has been our Environmental Advocacy Assistant for the past year and accomplished so much during that time, is leaving SCVAS to pursue her law degree in Washington DC. She came to us as a volunteer for the EA Committee, gained experience and later became a staff member. We fully expect to hear from her again and wish her success. We have no doubt she will accomplish great things as her career develops! (See Giuliana’s goodbye message on the cover of this issue).

And finally Barry and Ginger Langdon-Lassagne begin the process of relocating to California’s Central Coast where they will start a new chapter in San Luis Obispo. They have promised to keep in touch, which makes me feel a little better about them being three hours away.

With each of these departures, I have strong emotions. But I want to take this opportunity to speak more about working with Barry, who has been the Board President for two years. Barry was one of the reasons I knew the position of SCVAS Executive Director was right for me. He made no effort to conceal his excitement about my accepting the job and I knew our shared interests and mutual fondness would make for a productive period in our chapter. As expected, for the past two years, and another year prior to that, Barry was a bold, creative, resourceful, and constant supporter of mine as well as co-designer of many of SCVAS’s initiatives. Together Barry and I pledged to reach a more diverse community, and expand our education programs to include both high school and adult learners. Everything requires a team though, and these projects could only be accomplished with the enormous help of volunteers like Sue Meier, Ann Hepenstal, Julie Amato, Diane Hart and many others. This team, held together by the limitless optimism of Barry, succeeded in bringing rich media, like video and online presentations, to our members and YouTube channel, as well as making virtual events unexpectedly fun and engaging. Barry and I worked closely on everything. He was my go-to partner for help with tech issues as well. Email won’t work? No problem. Barry can help. Website acting weird… Call Barry! Pretty much any time of day.

Barry and Ginger are dear friends, and I realize I need at least the same space to document her many contributions to SCVAS as much space to document her many contributions to SCVAS. Barry and Ginger are dear friends, and I realize I need at least the same space to document her many contributions to SCVAS.

Don’t want to say goodbye.

Compiled by Carolyn Knight
Education and Outreach Manager, SCVAS

Birdathon is always an exciting time for SCVAS. A lot of that has to do with the time of the year, when you’re a birder, spring is its own festival.

DeDUCkTions

We only utilized 15 hours of that window but began birding a 6:30 a.m. We had our first bird, Common Poorwill (which was awesome!), at the Stile Ranch Trailhead. From there we moved across the street to find Grasshopper Sparrow at Ranch San Vicente parking area. Best views ever!

Next south toward Gilroy for Lawrence’s Goldfinch and Swainson’s Hawk on San Felipe Road, but missed the Cassin’s Kingbird. Big disappointment. Dohh!!

We made way too many stops but recovered 129 species with our core “in person” group. Three additional team members birded independently and added another 8 species to the team’s final total of 137 SPECIES.

What was really cool is that everybody, and I mean EVERYBODY, added at least one unique species to our final team list! That’s just amazing! Matthew Dodder

Almaden Eagles

The Almaden Eagles team did our SCVAS Birdathon on Monday, Apr 25. We used the “Distributed” format for our day which worked out well as each of us took selected areas mostly in the Almaden area but also a bit further south to

Matthew Dodder
Executive Director
Are you a birder who wants to interact with the local birding community online? Do you want to be able to ask questions, share photos, or just chat with other birders? Then you should join the South Bay Birds Discord® Server! It’s a new online space for birders to communicate, ask questions, and hang out. I’ll talk all about it in this article, and about how you can join.

About Me
I’m a passionate young birder from San Jose, and an active member of the local online birding community. I’ve done some other interesting things with SCVAS, including a video interview with Matthew Dodder for a school project, which you can view on SCVAS’s website. As a member of multiple Discord communities with my friends, one day I realized that I wished that the online interactions among the birding community online were more like the interactions I have with my friends online. Casual, quick, and fun. I spent a good while brainstorming ideas of how I could achieve this goal, and landed on the idea of making a Discord server for the local birding community.

How I Set It Up
Setting up the SBB Discord server was a surprisingly easy task, and I was able to get it set up and running quickly. Then, I sent out a message to South Bay Birds with the link. I wasn’t expecting the response that I got. Many people showed their support for the project, and over 75 people joined in the 1st day! I set up a variety of channels for different purposes, and the basic design in the same today.

How It’s Going
As of the writing of this article, the server has over 175 members, and it is a strong and fun community. The bird ID channel has been extremely successful, with almost every mystery bird shared there being identified by our passionate members. We also hold a monthly photo contest, with myself, Carter Gassiorowski, and Cedrik Von Briel being the judges. There’s always a fun conversation on the Casual Chatting channel, and I love seeing people share their photos and artwork on the Photos and Art channel.

I hope the SBB Discord channel continues to grow as more people learn about it. It has been wonderful getting it set up and being a part of its development as well as all the great conversations and discussions that were started there. The real value of any platform, of course, is the people who use it. With the great number of people who have already shared their stories, photos, anecdotes, artwork, and jokes, you have already guaranteed its success!

Why We Use It
As a communication platform for birders, Discord is very unique. Compared to things like the South Bay Birds email list, which uses long emails that often don’t provide an easy pathway for discussion, or the Silicon Valley Birding Facebook group, which is more for simply reporting and sharing sightings, Discord is much more versatile. On our server, there aren’t very many restrictions on what people can share, you just have to use the right channel. Discord also allows for fast communication of info like rare bird sightings, and quick updates if, say, a rare bird flies to a different location.

How It Works
Discord is an online communication platform, originally intended for use by gamers to talk while playing games. Over time, it has been adopted for many different uses. The interface is similar to platforms like Slack, where you have multiple “channels” on a server. Each channel has a different use. In the case of the SBB Discord, we have channels for bird ID help, photo sharing, casual chatting, and much more. The chat interface is similar to texting, and you can attach photos and other files to messages. You can also react to posts with a wide variety of emojis. For example, you could react to a funny post with a laughing emoji, or react to a photo you love with a heart emoji. If you want to mention a specific person, meaning that the message will appear highlighted to them, you simply type their username, but with an “@” at the start.

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There are very few jobs that I could have taken so soon after college that have allowed me the independence, mentorship, extensive skill development, and exposure to a plethora of issues that this one has. As I head to the George Washington University School of Law, I look forward to talking with me all that I have learned here. Time to go speak for the birds in DC! ●

**Vote NO on the deceptive Ballot Measure A**

*The devil is in the details:* The Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) has placed a deceptive Measure A on the June Ballot. Following a 4-yes (Directors Tony Estremera, Richard Santos, John Varela and Gary Kremen), 3-no (Directors Barbara Keegan, Nai Househ and Linda LeZotte) vote at the District Board meeting, this deceptive measure asks, “Shall the measure amending the Santa Clara Valley Water District Ordinance 11-01 to limit Board members to four successive four-year terms be adopted?” Board members are currently limited to three successive four-year terms, so a yes vote would extend rather than limit the term limits. SCVAS recommends a NO vote on Valley Water ballot Measure A.

**Henry Coe State Park**

*Vigilance is needed:* Last year, after a long fight to protect the biodiverse Tesla Park (near Livermore) from expansion of the Carnegie Vehicle Recreation Area, the State passed a law (SB155) to protect the park and its unique ecosystems. This was a big win for habitat protections! However, in doing so, the law lists Henry Coe State Park as a potential location for future expansion of off-road vehicle recreation. The environmental community, SCVAS included, is strongly opposed to the pulverization of Henry Coe State Park by the large project to small ones to avoid analyzing and mitigating the full impact (that is not permitted by law). The CEQA documents for that project expressed the intent to leave 6 acres of land undeveloped, and thus rejected the need for mitigation. Now, a new project—Alviso hotel—proposes to develop those same acres. This constitutes segmentation of CEQA review (segmenting a large project to small ones to avoid analyzing and mitigating the full impact) that is not permitted by law. The CEQA documents for the new hotel also dismissed concerns for a plethora of avian species, including burrowing owls. SCVAS submitted three letters on this project to the City of San Jose and appealed the Director Heilman’s decision. We hope the project will fully compensate for the loss of open space and habitat. ●

**Alviso Hotel consumes open space and habitat**

When the Toppolf project was approved a few years ago, we participated in the Environmental Review process and commented on the loss of open space and habitat. The environmental review documents for that project expressed the intent to leave 6 acres of land undeveloped, and thus rejected the need for mitigation. Now, a new project—Alviso hotel—proposes to develop those same acres.

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**Research, Research, Research**

One of my favorite aspects of this position has been constantly diving deeper into critical issues—and then being able to share these findings with our community. After researching artificial light at night, for instance, I enjoyed creating a two-part video series on light pollution with our Executive Director Matthew Dodder. And with the help of incredible volunteers, we are expanding our awareness campaigns. It was heartwarming and truly incredible when over 100 community members asked for better protections for the newts near Lexington Reservoir, and gratifying that the Midpen Open Space Board listened and took action! A plan to help the newts cross the road is currently in development.

**Outreach**

Engaging with our community and learning from fellow advocates has taught me how to intentionally collaborate with other community groups and create engaging campaigns. It was heartwarming and truly incredible when over 100 community members asked for better protections for the newts near Lexington Reservoir, and gratifying that the Midpen Open Space Board listened and took action! A plan to help the newts cross the road is currently in development. Shani has been an incredible mentor as I start throughout, Shani has been an incredible mentor as I start

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**Education**

Throughout my time at SCVAS, including my first week on the job, I have had opportunities to speak with young students about pursuing a career in environmentalism, the importance of bird safe protections, and ways to reduce light pollution. The environmental community, SCVAS included, is strongly opposed to the pulverization of Henry Coe State Park by the large project to small ones to avoid analyzing and mitigating the full impact (that is not permitted by law). The CEQA documents for that project expressed the intent to leave 6 acres of land undeveloped, and thus rejected the need for mitigation. Now, a new project—Alviso hotel—proposes to develop those same acres.

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**New Members**

*Feb – Apr*

- Family Afer • Monica Bafoti • Lisa Barbosa • Laurel Beacher • Robert Benza • Meg Biever • Rashmi Bhadraj • Tarja Bode • Brita Booker • Donna Brougham • Nicole Calace • John Calvin • Amy Carnelton Kai • Andrew Chao • Gayle Chin • Gagi Choudhary • Dana Cox • Monika Curic • Tom Davis • Laurie Dean • Jennifer Dett-Ernstrom • Jeanie [Denny] Donner • Bill Dudrey • Joanne Endo • Dean Endo • Michael Fong • Lila Friendly • Rhoda Fry • Chie Fuhatsugava • Lenore Galtbreath • Don Garton • Kritika Garg • Howard Glaser • C. Mario Gonzalez • Doris Goodell • Dae Gustavson • Linda Hambrock • Elizabeth Hartman • Terry Hart • Sue Hiller • Leslie Hoff • Laura Isaacs-Esqueda • Ellen Jamason • Roger Jensen • Eiko Johnson • Keith Joseph • Sunny Ken • Caroline Lambert • Patty Linder • Eric Liskay • Oscar Mace • Michelle Mackenzie • Patricia Mahoney • Michelle Mapes • Sunny Mar • Shava McCormick • Mike McCollum • Bob Mead • Carla Mardor • Continued on back cover

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**Conservation Corner**

Shani Kleinhaus
Environmental Advocate

Cover story Continued from page 3

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DeDUCKtions at dawn
Matthew Doucet

The day began just after 7 a.m. as my dad and I arrived at the Smith Creek Fire Station. Not long after getting out of the car, an adult Bald Eagle flew over, not a bad start to the day! There was significant wind on the eastern slope and Manzanita Trails which kept the warblers down, but fortunately, key species like Ash-Throated Flycatcher, Pine Siskin, and Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher were still out and about.

Heading down to the creek, we ran into Mike Rogers, which was probably the most fortunate event of the day (more on that later). The valley where the creek runs was sheltered, making it much easier to find birds. The trees near the creek were still out and about.

The Fledglings

Yesterday, 4/9/22, I had the best day of birding I’ve ever experienced as I participated in the Fledglings Birdathon. All day, as I thought things were slowing down, another amazing bird would show up!

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I first met Doug and Gail Cheeseman in the early 1970s when Doug and I were both on the SCVAS Board. We met in a large old home in Palo Alto around a massive table. Tony Look and Florence La Riviere were other board members at the time.

I was new to bird watching. Doug invited me to his home above Montalvo, which overlooked our valley, to band birds. He had mist nets and wire traps set up on his long lot. While we banded, Gail would make home above Montalvo, which overlooked our valley, to band birds. He had mist nets and wire traps set up on his long lot. While we banded, Gail would make

Doug was also one of my groomsmen along with my wife at a lecture on elephants at Abalonetti’s. My last big trip with Doug and Gail was to see marine mammals and seabirds. They helped a young Debi Millichamp, who later became Debi Shearwater, get started. Doug loved to teach. He prepared intensively for trips. He taught all day long and into the evening during trips. On Monterey Bay, he would finally relax after the trip by getting calamari at Debi’s. My last big trip with Doug and Gail was to see marine mammals and seabirds. They helped a young Debi Millichamp, who later became Debi Shearwater, get started. Doug loved to teach. He prepared intensively for trips. He taught all day long and into the evening during trips. On Monterey Bay, he would finally relax after the trip by getting calamari at Debi’s.

Doug and Gail organized their first trip to Africa in 1978 and I was there. When they traveled to a region, they collaborated with local experts. I returned to Africa with them in 1990—also going to Rwanda and Madagascar. I sat next to Doug when a lone Mountain Gorilla swiped them in 1990—also going to Rwanda and Madagascar. Gail organized their first trip to Africa in 1978 and I was there. When they traveled to a region, they collaborated with local experts. I returned to Africa with them in 1990—also going to Rwanda and Madagascar. I sat next to Doug when a lone Mountain Gorilla swiped them in 1990—also going to Rwanda and Madagascar.

As nature lovers, we’ll reap the added benefit of adding habitat value as we add native plants to our landscaping. As birders, we can stop and admire the plant adaptations as we hike.

Adaptation and Habitat

California native plants evolved in place, adapting to the local microclimate where they grow. By adding to your landscape plant species that naturally grow nearby, you also add habitat that the local birds, pollinators, butterflies, and other life rely on for food and shelter. (See www.calscape.org and search by zip code to find the species local to where you live.)

Our native plants have evolved interesting adaptations which enable them to live through our rainless summers, including:

- Deciduous summers: If you’re from back East, you immediately picture a deciduous tree as dropping its leaves in the fall—but not! The California Buckeye (Aesculus californica) and drops its leaves in the early summer, growing dormant to conserve water. Native bees and butterflies nest on its flowers. (You can meet this small tree when you’re walking on the creek trail at McClellan Ranch, among other sites.)
- Deep taproots: Some native plants have developed long roots in order to find moisture deep in the soil. The California Poppy (Eschscholzia californica) has a long taproot (and supports birds, butterflies, pollinators, etc.). Milkwed, e.g. Narrow Leaf Milkwed (Asclepias fascicularis) sends down a long taproot (and supports butterflies) as does the Coast Live Oak (Quercus agrifolia) which is one of our most important wildlife plants (supporting birds, butterflies, insects, mammals and more).
- Special leaves: Some plants have developed leaves which better retain water, or small leaves which let less water escape. Various ceanothus species such as the Coulter’s Matilija Poppy (Romneya coulteri) is often called the “fried egg plant” because that’s what its flowers look like! It supports bees and butterflies, but fair warning—the plant grows tall and spreads enthusiastically!

- Dramatic Flowers: While not locally native, the Desert Globemallow (Sphaeralcea ambigua) offers a dramatic apricot-orange flower and supports birds, bees and butterflies. And the Coulter’s Matilija Poppy (Romneya coulteri) is often called the “fried egg plant” because that’s what its flowers look like! It supports bees and butterflies, but fair warning—the plant grows tall and spreads enthusiastically!

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SATOMI FUJIKAWA

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Woodpeckers, and large and noisy flocks of Western Bluebirds, and then headed over to Hill Park. The moment I stepped out of the car, I quickly saw two of my first target birds, the Tree Swallows, and spotted two White-Throated Swallows flying high above us. As we walked along the trail, we spotted a Cooper’s Hawk flying over the trail being mobbed by the swallows. Massimo Bacetti

BIRDATHON STORIES Continued from page 9

Black Skimmers were back on their island, and at Charleston Slough/Coast Casey Forebay, a pair of Cinnamon Teal foraged while hundreds of Western Sandpipers were flushed by a Northern Harrier.

Since, amazingly, we hadn’t seen a Great Egret in the day, we stopped at Shorebird Way Rookery as the sun set.

Vinyak Hebbagil
The Fledglings
I started the day off around 9 a.m., heading straight to Lone Hill Park. The moment I stepped out of the car, I quickly saw two of my first target birds, the Chipping Sparrows, foraging in the grass, along with a noisy mixed flock of House Finches and Lesser Goldfinches. I took a couple minutes to take some photos of the birds around the park, including a very nice-looking male Western Bluebird, and then headed over to my next stops, Guadalupe Oak Grove Park and Fontana Park.

Once we got to the parking lot of Guadalupe Oak Grove Park, I was immediately greeted by the calls of foraging Acorn Woodpeckers, and large and noisy flocks of Tree Swallows, Violet-Green Swallows, and Northern Rough-Winged Swallows. We walked the trail up the first smaller hill, and heard an interesting song being sung by a California Towhee. After we reached the top, we spent some time watching the swallow flocks, and spotted two White-Throated Swiffs flying high above us. As we walked along the trail, we spotted a Cooper’s Hawk flying over the trail being mobbed by the swallows. Massimo Bacetti

Lean Green Birding Machine
We started our watches at Rancho San Antonio while looking at a Great Horned Owl and two Owlets, and then toured the preserve adding 31 more species, highlighted by a lovely group of three Ash-Throated Flycatchers, and then the first Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers seen this year (by us) at this location. In the new retention basin just to the east of the park, two Killdeer joined the Red-Winged Blackbirds.

At adjacent Gate of Heaven Cemetery, the pond was sadly empty save for a lone Canada Goose in the smaller pond, but the skies were filled with Cliff Swallows and a smaller number of Vauxs Swifts. In the back of the property a pair of Western Bluebirds were tending a nest. On the way out, a nice surprise as a Green Heron appeared out of nowhere and gave us great views. Steve Pott

Persistent Picidaes
This was the first time since Covid that the “Persistent Picidans” went out in the field for the 2022 SCVAS Spring Birdathon. And instead of driving around the county looking for new species we spent the entire morning at Joseph Grant County Park. It was a more relaxing way to see some great birds. It turned into quite a social event as participants enjoyed talking about the various wildlife we were seeing from the birds to the numerous wild pigs to fence lizards, butterflies and goats! Lisa Myers

Birdcassos
What a sunny, warm day to be out with the birds! I decided to split my 4 hours in half, observing as many birds as I could in the first 2 hours and then drawing as many as I could at my drawing table at home. I focused on Stevens Creek County Park, with quick stops at Gates of Heaven Cemetery, and Los Altos neighborhoods as I drove home. When I opened my car door at Cooley Picnic Area, I was greeted by a symphony of birdsong: Townsend’s and Yellow-Rumped Warblers, Warbling Vireos, Dark-Eyed Juncos, and Song Sparrows were singing in numbers. Getting a look at them, though, took a bit of time. Driving back along the Stevens Canyon Road got me waterbirds and raptors, including an adult Bald Eagle flying high over the reservoir. I picked up more woodland birds at Chestnut parking lot and the visitor center. Hooded Mergansers and Buffleheads were hanging out at the little pond at Gates of Heaven, along with numerous Cliff Swallows. The drive home netted one last species: a pair of Western Bluebirds at Grant Park. I was able to draw 35 out of the 38 birds I saw. Whew! Mary Ann Allan

To see all our artists’ work, please visit: scvas.org/art-galleries

I usually draw landscapes and flowers, so when I was drawing the birds for the sketch-a-thon, I kept saying, “Can you just stay still?” Most of the time, I was balancing my sketchpad on a fence post with a pencil in one hand and my binoculars in the other. Since I’m fairly new to birding, I appreciated this challenge because it was a great way to practice noticing details of each bird, especially after Matthew gave me advice on accentuating field marks to differentiate species. I added watercolors on top of my pencil drawings the last 30 minutes before my time ran out. The four hours flew by so quickly! I could have stayed out there for four more!

Satomi Fujikawa

Go to scvas.org/spring-birdathon-stories
**Field Notes**

Please report rarities to pdunten@gmail.com

Pete Dunten
Santa Clara County eBird Reviewer

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**Doves to Boobies**

The first extraordinary record of the period was the appearance of an **Oriental Turtle-Dove** together with our local Mourning Doves and Eurasian Collared Doves at a yard in Palo Alto. The Dove was first seen on 2 Feb (ABr) and faithfully returned for birdseed through 22 Mar (m. ob.). The dove was a county first record, and third record for California. After their arrival in the south bay in 2013, dove was a county first record, and third record for California. The Dove was first seen on 2 Feb (ABr) and to appear at our

The first extraordinary record of the period was the **Doves to Boobies** found along the Guadalupe Creek Trail near Riverview Park, first noted on 8 Jan, was last seen on 5 Feb (JH). A male **Vermilion Flycatcher** returned to J Grant CP on 15 Mar this year, for its fourth summer in the park (fide SouthBayBirds) There has been no sign of a mate, and with a longevity record of 5.5 years for the species, we wish him luck this year. **Tropical Kingbirds** broke records again this winter, with three found at Geng Rd near the Palo Alto Golf Course on 7 Feb (E, KDi) and again on 11 Feb (Alb). Two remained on 21 Apr (DSb) and one was still present on 30 Apr (JTv). Another was found at Ed Levin CP between 19 Feb (WGB) and 8 Apr (CG, EvM). Time will tell if a **Cassin’s Kingbird** found at the Stanford Dish on 27 Apr was a migrant or part of the species’ breeding range expansion northwards in the county (SpV).

**Swallows to Tanagers**

A single **Bank Swallow** over Alviso pond A16 on 30 Apr was a nice find (DSb). The ratio of sightings in the spring versus fall is about 1 to 4. **Purple Martins** are found both as breeding birds in the Santa Cruz mountains and as passage migrants through the county. A pair of Martins were spotted over Grant Lake in J Grant CP on 9 Apr (MMR, GL) and a pair were noted again on 23 Apr in a southern part of J Grant CP (MMR). A group of six migrants were foraging over the fields in Coyote Valley on 11 Apr (MMR). **Townsend’s Solitaires** turned up at three locations. One was at Anderson Reservoir on 12 Feb (SCR). One present at Sanborn CP since early January was last seen on 22 Mar (JSc). A third was found in Upper Stevens Creek CP on 24 Mar (GE). The first **Yellow-breasted Chat** of the year was singing in the North Coyote Valley Conservation Area on 30 Apr (E, Mev et al.). An **American Redstart** was photographed on 5 Feb along the Guadalupe River Trail near Thamien Park (JL). The photo shows the tail of the Redstart flying away, fittingly, as the bird was not seen again. Photos helped identify a hybrid **Townsend’s x Hermit Warbler** present on 25 Mar in Quicksilver CP (JPa). And on 25 Mar an adult male **Summer Tanager** was found along Guadalupe Creek above Camden in Los Gatos (JPa). The Tanager was seen through 30 Mar (m. ob.). An adult male has wistered at this location for three of the last four winters.

**Woodpeckers to Flycatchers**

Another wintering **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** turned up at Casa de Fruta on 12 Mar (Sb) and was seen again on 14 Mar (PDu). Our total for the winter was three individuals. The **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** wintering at Vasona CP was last noted on 22 Feb (VT, RKn). A **Red-naped Sapsucker** wintered along the Guadalupe Creek Trail near Ayers Road and Sycamore Creek. The sapsucker was noted on 5 Dec and 29 Jan (JPa) and again on 30 Jan – 2 Feb (AnW, GL, BM, SW, JH). As is often the case with sapsuckers, close scrutiny of photos raised the (unanswerable) question of whether another species might be represented in the bird’s ancestry. The **Lewis’s Woodpecker** at Monte Bello OSP first noted on 20 Dec of last year during the Christmas Bird Count, stayed through 15 Apr (FrV). The **Eastern Phoebe** along the Guadalupe River Trail near Riverview Park, first noted on 8 Jan, was last seen on 5 Feb (JL). A male **Vermilion Flycatcher** returned to J Grant CP on 15 Mar this year, for its fourth summer in the park (fide SouthBayBirds). There has been no sign of a mate, and with a longevity record of 5.5 years for the species, we wish him luck this year. **Tropical Kingbirds** broke records again this winter, with three found at Geng Rd near the Palo Alto Golf Course on 7 Feb (E, KDi) and again on 11 Feb (Alb). Two remained on 21 Apr (DSb) and one was still present on 30 Apr (JTv). Another was found at Ed Levin CP between 19 Feb (WGB) and 8 Apr (CG, EvM). Time will tell if a **Cassin’s Kingbird** found at the Stanford Dish on 27 Apr was a migrant or part of the species’ breeding range expansion northwards in the county (SpV).

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**Books**


Note the collection or sale of feathers from native species is prohibited by law. If you find a feather, admire it and leave it behind.

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Photo: Tom Grey

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**Answer (SPRING 2022)**

Last issue’s feather appears to be from a **Common Loon**. All three of the expected loon species were foraging in the surf as we walked Limantour Beach. Common seems to be the closest in appearance.

**Answer will be posted in the next issue of This Avocet.**

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**Track & Feather**

Matthew Dodder - Out West

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**Quiz Master**

Matthew Dodder - Out West

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**Books**


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Photo: Tom Grey

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**Photo: Tom Grey**
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