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Forster's Tern: Peter Shen

We apologize for the lateness of this message. While some of the events in this update may have already passed, we wanted to be sure you were notified after our email blew off course.

September 2024

The results are finally in! When the recent poll of members closed a few weeks ago, the response was overwhelmingly in favor of the organization's new name—a name that sets an aspirational tone for our future and preserves our connection with many of our sister chapters. More than 80% of those who responded to the poll approved the Board's recommendation of **Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance**. Details about the name selection process and the reasoning behind the new name were included in the poll but will also find a permanent home on our website soon along with additional materials about our chapter's long history. Obviously, rebranding ourselves is an involved process but well worth the effort. There are numerous background items that will need to be addressed as we go forward with our new name and in the weeks ahead, you will begin to see changes to our website, email addresses, letterhead, and business cards. Our official web address will also change, but the current one will continue to work indefinitely. We ask for your patience as all our channels are updated. It's an exciting time indeed and we are overjoyed at the new name we have chosen. Thank you for your support during this important page in our chapter's history!

Matthew Dodder

Executive Director



Grant Ranch in July led by Eve Meier and Connor Christensen

Field Trips

In-Person and Self-Guided Field Trips

The next set of in-person field trips drop on **August 28th**. Visit [field trips](#) for more information and to sign-up.

TRIP POLICY: So that more people can enjoy our trips, please limit your sign-ups to 1 weekend trip and 2 weekday trips per month. To be informed of last-minute open spots on our field trips, sign-up for [South Bay Bird Events](#).

We have some great ideas for places you can bird on your own. 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.



Selection from Wings in the Wild Gallery. For details of each photo, visit the full gallery ([link below](#)).

2024 Summer Birding Challenge

This year's Summer Birding Challenge has generated a lot of response. Photographers are submitting wonderful images that fall into several categories. You can take a look at the growing collection of spectacular shots, and there's still time to participate. Details below.

July Juveniles Gallery: enjoy images of adorable juvenile birds at [July Juveniles](#)

Wings in the Wild Gallery: view images of stunning birds in their environment at [Wings in the Wild](#)

Summer Shorebirds (and Water Birds): look for announcements of the gallery going live soon.

Far-Flung Friends: Participate by sending your favorite vacation bird images from

anywhere in the world.

To participate, send images to photos@scvas.org.

For more information see [2024 Summer Birding Challenge — Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society](#)



Backyard Birding

Summer turns to fall in the yard

It's late summer, and our Backyard Birder still has lots of young birds visiting her yard! Fledgling House Finches beg for food from their parents - most female House Finches have more than one brood during the nesting season. Young Dark-eyed Juncos have appeared in teenage groups, foraging together, and are starting to mix with the adult population now. Young Mourning Doves, with their scalloped feathers, are visiting with adult doves. One day, an adult and a juvenile Band-tailed Pigeon showed up to browse the offerings.

As the breeding season draws to a close, many birds are molting, changing their old feathers for a fresh set of new ones. Look for birds that seem unusually scruffy or are missing feathers - the Backyard Birder has spotted a Dark-eyed Junco with only white tail feathers. Some birds lose many of the feathers on their heads all at once, like

American Crows and California Scrub-Jays, and resemble dinosaurs!

In September, look for the return of our ubiquitous winter birds, White-crowned Sparrows and Golden-crowned Sparrows. Our Backyard Birder usually sees the first ones in her yard during this month. Send a note to backyardbirds@scvas.org and tell us when you first see each of these species in your neighborhood!



White-crowned Sparrow: Brooke Miller

Fall is the best time to trim trees

Do your trees need a trim? Fall is the best time to take care of your trees - the breeding season for most birds has ended, reducing the risk that you will disturb nests, or birds raising their young.

Late September, and the months of October and November, are the safest time to trim trees. December is generally good too, although keep an eye out for nesting Anna's Hummingbirds! No matter when you trim trees, carefully check for nests and other signs

of wildlife before starting work, and postpone trimming if you find active nests.

You'll find more bird-friendly tree care tips in the upcoming Fall edition of *The Avocet*.



Speaker Series

Matthew Dodder - Autumn Birding

September 18, 7PM

Online

With the fall migration in full swing, our Executive Director Matthew Dodder shares what to look, listen, and search for amongst the changing leaves!

[Watch the program](#)



Employment Opportunity

After seven years at SCVAS, our wonderful office manager will be leaving us in November. Many of you know April as the cheerful face of SCVAS who runs our Nature Shop. April does much more for our organization and those abilities span from managing our member database to maintaining our inventory of products. She has been wonderful to work with and she will certainly be missed, but we know she will do well with whatever the future holds for her. Below is a brief summary of the responsibilities of the position.

The key areas of responsibility for the Office Manager include:

- Managing the NeonCRM cloud-based member/donor database
- Accurate accounting of donations/payments from many sources, and bank transactions
- General office management (business/financial/employee records, office supplies, payroll processing)
- Nature Shop management (sales and inventory knowledge, customer service focus)

Candidates will need to have general office and accounting experience, as well as MS

Excel and Word. Birding experience would be a great bonus!

Those interested in applying for the Office Manager position should send inquiries to April Austin at scvas@scvas.org.



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