



SEQUOIA NEEDLES

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society, San Mateo County
Founded 1949

Volume 60, No. 5
June-August 2010

BIRDING THE SCOTIA SEA

BY JUSTINE CARSON

During the month of January this year, I had the opportunity to join a Cheese-man's Ecology Tour of the area called the Scotia Sea, a part of the Southern Ocean. The Scotia Sea is the area bounded by Tierra del Fuego (at the southern tip of Argentina), the Falkland Islands, South Georgia Island, the South Orkneys, and the northern tip of the Antarctic peninsula. To spend a month in this area with the chance to liberally sample a variety of bird and marine mammal habitats was a truly extraordinary experience.

I set off from the city of Ushuaia on December 30, 2009, on the Polar Star with about 90 other passengers, a knowledgeable staff that included biologists, historians, geologists, and a number of talented photographers. The Polar Star, an ice-breaker class ship, was our very comfortable home for the next month. It provided the platform from which we explored this remote part of the world and its seabird and marine mammal inhabitants.

Pelagic birding from the decks of the Polar Star was unparalleled. At almost any time of the day there were excellent opportunities to view seabirds as they followed in our wake or flew alongside. Jim Danzenbaker, the expedition biologist, or other knowledgeable staff members were always on the bridge to help with identification. Among the highlights were five types of albatross – Wandering, Royal, Black-browed, Light-mantled Sooty and Grey-headed. Also seen regularly were many types of petrel – Northern and Southern Giant Petrel, Antarctic, Cape or Pintado (a personal favorite – many pixels were expended trying to get a good photo of this fast-



Striated Caracara, Steeple Jason Island, Falkland Islands. Photo by Justine Carson

flying bird), Snow, White-headed, Soft-plumaged, and Blue. Terns, Diving-petrels, Prions, Storm-petrels, Shags, and Shearwaters were all seen almost daily. We saw many varieties of penguin from the ship as well, including several Emperor penguins.

Though the birding from the ship was stellar, the bird and wildlife viewing was even better on shore and the expedition was designed to provide a maximum amount of shore time. Our first landings were in the Falkland Islands – New Island, West Point Island, Carcass Island and, probably the highlight, a full day on Steeple Jason Island.

Vegetation on the Falklands is limited to mostly mosses, grasses, and other low ground-cover. The tallest plant is tussac, which grows to over six feet in large clumps and provides shelter for some seabird colonies. The resident mosses and lichens are in soft green and gold shades;

(Continued on page 4)

Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center
(See program details on page 2)

June

Thursday, 10th Potluck Meeting
Potluck at 6:00 PM; Program at 7:00 PM

Program: Birding Chile and Easter Island

September

Thursday, 9th Birding Class

Upcoming Field Trips

(See trip details on page 3)

Check the field trip descriptions for any special information or requirements. Late comers may be disappointed. For all field trips bring your binoculars, sun block, and water; wear sturdy walking shoes or boots, and a hat, and always dress in layers for hot, sunny weather to cool, windy conditions. While we will attempt to stay on schedule, circumstances may dictate changes to field trip leaders, dates, or times.

For the latest schedule and updates always go to the Sequoia Audubon web site, contact the trip leader.

SAS on Vacation

Just a reminder – SAS is on vacation during the months of July and August. We will return in September with our field trips and our September 9th general meeting.

Have a great summer 'til we see you in September.

Sequoia Audubon Society

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MEETING PROGRAMS

BY SUE COSSINS AND SONNY
MENCHER

Program and Potluck Dinner

Birding the Heart and Soul of Chile with Extension to Easter Island

By Bob and Sue Cossins

Thursday June 10, 7:00 PM

Bob and Sue Cossins will give a presentation on their Field Guides February, 2009 trip to Chile with an extension to Easter Island. Their guides were SAS's own Alvaro Jaramillo along with local expert Ricardo Matus. The trip covered the central area of Chile from the Pacific Ocean to the Chilean Andes along with a pelagic trip out of Valparaiso. Sue says, "To bird Chile and Easter Island with the person who wrote the field guide, *Birds of Chile*, was quite a treat – it doesn't get much better than that!" They saw 15 of the 19 bird species of Easter Island and 171 of the 212 mainland Chilean birds.

The Easter Island extension was a bit of a break from birding although the birders on the trip made the best of it, seeing some species that weren't seen on the mainland. Bob was in his element as there was excellent scenery and of course the "Moai Statues." Their excellent guide on the island, Josie, related what her grandfather, who was an expert on the culture of the island, had told her about the island's history.

A potluck dinner beginning at 6 PM will precede the program.

Doors open at 5:30 PM.

Please bring a plate, cup, utensils and a side dish to share. SAS will provide the main course, hot beverages and dessert. Please no alcoholic beverages per the Garden Center rules.

Birding Class: All You Ever Wanted to Know About Acorn Woodpeckers

By Ruth Troetschler

Summer Planning Meeting

Our summer planning meeting will be held August 15. If you are interested in joining the board or in other ways shaping the future of our chapter, we welcome your attendance.

Please contact us at sequoiaaudubon@yahoo.com to join in.

Thursday September 9, 7:00 PM

Ruth has studied Acorn Woodpeckers for many years and recently gave a keynote presentation at a SCVAS general meeting on this subject. She also has followed Burrowing Owls in recent years and chaired the local effort to census the owls.

Accompanying Field Trip

Saturday, September 11

Follow-up field trip to reinforce what was learned in the birding class. The field trip is open to everyone with a \$5.00 fee paid to the instructor. Check our website over the summer and/or the September Needles for time and location.

Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center

605 Parkside Way, San Mateo

Parkside Way is west of
Alameda de las Pulgas between 26th
& 28th Avenues.



Magellanic Woodpecker, Termas de
Chillan, Chile, February 7, 2009
By Bob Cossins

Golden Gate Audubon Society Field Trip

**San Francisco Botanical Garden
Golden Gate Park**

First Sunday of every month (except July 4)

June 6 and August 1, 8:00 – 10:30 AM

Meet at the front gate of the garden in Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way. This delightful section of the park has several micro-habitats that attract an array of resident, migrant, and vagrant birds. This monthly trip is oriented toward helping beginning birders develop their skills in spotting and identifying birds.

Leaders: Alan Ridley, allan-rid@pacbell.net; Helen McKenna, 415.566.3241; Ginny Marshall ginnybirder@sbcglobal.net; and Dominik Mosur, polskatata@yahoo.com

Pescadero Marsh – State Park Docent Nature Walks

First Sunday of each month is a morning walk from 10:00 AM – Noon

Third Sunday of each month is an afternoon walk from 1:00 – 3:00 PM

June walks are on June 6 and 20.

July walk is on July 18. (There is no walk on July 4.)

August walks are on August 1 and 15. Come and discover Pescadero Marsh.

The California State Park Docents will lead a field trip to learn about the marsh. The docents will point out the plants and animals that inhabit this San Mateo County treasure. If it is not raining, meet in the parking lot just over the bridge at Pescadero State Beach. Wear clothing in layers for cold and windy to sunny weather. Heavy rain cancels.

Contact: The park ranger station for voice mail information 650-879-2170 or Rita Jennings at 650-728-2254

Directions: Go south from Half Moon Bay on Hwy 1, about 12 miles. Just past the bridge over Pescadero Creek, look for the south parking lot. If you get to the intersection of Pescadero Road and Hwy 1 you have gone too far.

Beginner/Family Nature Hike

**Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve
Sunday June 27, 8:00 AM – Noon**

This hilly park on the southern edge of San Mateo County offers a variety of

habitats. Birds we will look for include Chipping Sparrow, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Lazuli Bunting, and Pileated Woodpecker. We will walk 3-4 miles and there will be some hills. Bring plenty of water. **Beginners welcome but terrain may not be suitable for small children.**

Directions: Take Woodside Road exit from Highway 280 and travel west to Skyline Blvd. Turn left on Skyline Blvd. The park entrance is on the west side of Skyline Blvd approximately 1/2 mile south of Alpine Road.

Leader: Ginny Marshall
ginnybirder@sbcglobal.net

2010 Shearwater Journeys Pelagic Trips

**Princeton Harbor, Half Moon Bay
July 31**

August 1

September 13, 17, 18, 19, 27

October 2, 10, 11

Register early and get the SAS discounted rate of \$103.00, not including any fuel surcharges. For new sign ups ONLY – no refunds if you've already reserved at full price. Regular rates start at \$148.

All trips depart from Huck Finn Center, 15 Johnson Pier at Pillar Point Harbor on Half Moon Bay in El Granada, CA.

Certain conditions apply: Discounts apply only to Sequoia Audubon members, not their friends or families. Discounts are non-refundable and non-transferable for any reason. Only a certain number of spaces at the discounted rate will be available on each trip. Advance reservations are a must. Include full name, address, phone, and e-mail address, as required by the Harbor Master. Any discounted reservation that does not include this information will be returned to the sender. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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Summer Planning Meeting

Our summer planning meeting will be held August 15. If you are interested in joining the board or in other ways shaping the future of our chapter, we welcome your attendance.

Please contact us at sequoiaaudubon@yahoo.com to join in.

Save the Date:

**Saturday 9/25/2010,
10:00AM to 6:00PM**

Special sale event for Sequoia Audubon Society

Birders Garden,
926 El Camino Real, San Carlos

We will have more details for the September edition of *Needles*

Explore Bay Area Nature All Year Long – just \$18!

Bay Nature magazine is offering a subscriber special to supporters of the Sequoia Audubon Society. Sign up for one year of award-winning *Bay Nature* for \$18 (regular price \$21.95). Go to baynature.org/store and enter promo code SDK2SA at checkout, or call 888-BAYNAT and mention promo code SDK2SA.

Every quarter *Bay Nature* takes you out into the natural world of the Bay Area to visit beautiful places, learn about interesting wildlife, and meet the people dedicated to protecting them. Visit BayNature.org to learn more.

(Continued on page 4)

(Field Trips, continued from page 3)

Farallon Islands Pelagic Trip

August 8

SAS members may also get a discount on this trip – \$129, not including any fuel surcharges. Regular rate is \$149. Departs from Emeryville on the Superfish (same as last year). Same conditions as above apply.

Follow-up field trip for the September 9 birding class

Saturday, September 11

Follow-up field trip to reinforce what was learned in the birding class. The field trip is open to everyone with a \$5.00 fee paid to the instructor. Check our website over the summer and/or the September Needles for time and location.

(Birding the Scotia Sea, continued from page 1)

the grasses a brighter green broken up by patches of red sheep sorrel.

Nothing can quite prepare one for the first experience of a nesting colony. Many colonies are out in the open on rocky cliffs or ledges and harbor a variety of nesting species such as Rock-hopper Penguin, Black-browed Albatross, and Imperial or Blue-eyed Shag. While appearing and sounding rather chaotic, life within the colony is quite well-ordered. Penguin parents come and go, splitting their time between foraging in the sea and tending to the chicks or eggs. Each “commute” is a painstaking process of hopping up or down hundreds of yards of steep rocks, then facing the dangers, in the form of seals or orcas, waiting in the near shore waters. The albatross and shag parents seemingly have an easier job – at least as far as the commuting is concerned. We were lucky to have excellent weather conditions in the Falklands and were able to spend ample time sitting on a warm rock near a colony watching the interactions between parent and parent or parent and chick. Similarly a spot along one of the “penguin highways” used by the birds for their trips to and from the sea provided hours of entertainment. Parenting is sometimes a messy job – given the density of the colony, the regurgitated food for the chicks, and the quantity of guano produced. Penguins with dirty plumage pass along the highway going toward the sea while refreshed and sparkling clean individuals head back to the nests.

Skuas of one species or another were omnipresent around all the penguin colonies we visited, watching for a chance to pounce upon the weak or unwary. We observed many cases of skua predation. In one instance the skua walked among nesting Gentoo penguins tugging at their tail feathers. Finally a penguin parent made a wrong move in fending off the skua and it quickly grabbed the chick and flew off with it.

Other species observed in the Falklands included the burrowing Magellanic penguin, the brightly-colored Long-tailed Meadowlark, Tussac-bird, Magellanic Snipe, Upland and Kelp Goose, oystercatchers, and steamer and other duck species. Another highlight was the endemic Striated Caracara, or “Johnny

Rook,” seen in large numbers especially on Steeple Jason.

Descriptions of our sightings on South Georgia Island and the Antarctic peninsula will follow in a future issue of Needles. For anyone wanting a more detailed list of the birds sighted, the trip log is available at http://www.cheesemans.com/pdfs/log_antarctica2009-10.pdf

CAVITY NESTER CORNER/ BLUEBIRD PROGRAM

BY SUSAN KRITZIK

Our nesting season is in full swing now. The cold, wet weather hasn't helped the nesting birds much, however. Their jobs as incubators and food-providers are much more difficult in these conditions. Feeding mealworms can help them make it.

We have been very fortunate to have John Chamberlain building and repairing nest boxes at this important time of year! Thank you, John, for all the help you have given both the monitors and the birds!

We have an excellent bluebird trail available now! It is at the Menlo Country Club on Woodside Rd. The trail must be monitored on Monday afternoons, when the golf course is closed. There are 30 boxes, and the trail is very productive and exciting to monitor. Please contact me if you are interested in this or other monitoring opportunities.

I am also looking for someone to take over as Bluebird Coordinator next year. Contact me for a job summary: Susan Kritzik, sgkritzik@sbcglobal.net or 650-851-4529. It's fun and interesting,

Thanks to all monitors and supporters of the program for all they give of their time! It really makes a difference.



Earth Day 2010: Burlingame Shorebird Sanctuary Cleanup, April 17: Volunteers from Mormon Helping Hands attempting to remove a shopping cart from the Sanctuary.

BIRDING PALS

BY SONNY MENCHER

Over the past few years I have taken vacations to visit family and friends and I usually want to get in some birding in these exotic locations. Perhaps near my sister's home outside New York City, while headed down the New Jersey shore to Williamsburg, Virginia, passing through Cape May or when on a Caribbean cruise with 6-8 hour stops on Grand Cayman or Jamaica. A question comes up, how do I maximize my limited time for birding?

When talking to fellow birders about my experiences they suggested I write up my approach for the Needles. Here are some suggestions – not in any special order.

Google “Audubon” or “Audubon Society” for the city, county area you will be visiting. Usually this gets you to the local Audubon website. Once there check their calendar. You might find a field trip scheduled during your time in the area. Or you may find contact info for officers, chairpersons, or trip leaders. Go ahead and e-mail them.

Similar Google search – This time enter “birding” with location information. Using this approach, I have found sites otherwise unknown to me, often National Wildlife Refuges. If driving, it is worth making a slight detour or modifying your route to visit the site.

Google “bird check list” for the area and you can print out a list of local birds.

Birding Pals @ <http://www.birdingpal.org/> Here local birders sign up, as I have, and offer to show visitors around. It is a global site with guides throughout the world. You can search by country, state, city, etc. to find someone where you want to bird. The list may include some professional, fee-for-service guides as well as volunteers.

Let me share my most recent experience with birding while traveling. On a family vacation/cruise to the Western Caribbean, I followed the steps mentioned above. I had no luck with guides on Cozumel but did find a report someone had written about their time birding on the Island.

For Grand Cayman, I wrote to one birding pal. I received a prompt response that he would be “off island” on the day of my visit, but he referred me to another person who was willing to show me around. What a fantastic day – 9 AM to 3 PM with a personal guide around a good part of the island. I got to see areas known to locals, and entered some private estates, back roads, and other properties owned by people he knew for some unusual sightings. I also enjoyed wonderful local food at a small restaurant on the beach.

For Ocho Rios, Jamaica, I found no listing on Birding Pals but I did find someone on the other side of the island. I wrote

to him asking for a guide in Ocho Rios. Here I got a fee-for-service guide -- a wonderful lady who ran a wildlife rescue center outside town.

Our first stop was at a local park for Olive-throated Parakeet, the endemic White-chinned Thrush, nesting Yellow-crowned Night Heron and others. Then on to a 2000-acre working plantation. My guide was allowed entry and freedom to walk us around. She knew the locations for many of the birds and spoke with the plantation workers to find others. Several of the workers showed us the Northern Potoo camouflaged on a snag.

On the way back to the ship we stopped at a place where our guide buys birdseed. She took some seed and spread it behind the parking lot to attract the local Saffron Finch. Here we also purchased Jamaican High Mountain coffee for \$6.00/lb rather than the \$26.00 at the tourist shops.

In about six hours of birding on these two islands I saw approximately 90 species, 38 life birds and 12 of the 26 Jamaican endemics. Since both guides were also environmentalists and involved in the community I learned a great deal about the area's politics, environmental issues, and recovery from hurricanes. I had some great days of birding and made new friends, too.

OTHER BIRDING ACTIVITIES

Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua

Lee Vining, CA

Friday – Sunday, June 18 – 20

Three days of evening presentations, workshops, field trips, art, music, food and great birding! All proceeds support continuing research in the Mono Basin.

Contact: Lisa Cutting, Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541 760-647-6595
<http://www.birdchautauqua.org>

Kern Valley Hummingbird Celebration

Weldon, CA

Saturday, August 7, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

The Southern Sierra's Kern River Valley is one of the premier migration routes for six species of hummingbirds. Join them for a day of appreciation at their feeders.

Contact: Kern Valley Nature Festivals, PO Box 833, Weldon, CA 93283
http://www.kern.audubon.org/hummer_fest.htm

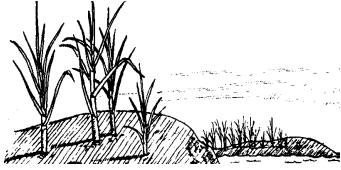
Southwest Wings 19th Annual Birding & Nature Festival **Sierra Vista, AZ**

Wednesday – Sunday, August 4 – 8

The 2010 Southwest Wings Birding and Nature Festival will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Sierra Vista. The town lies at the foot of the Huachuca Mountains, minutes away from some of the most famous birding spots in the United States. These places have been known historically

(Continued on page 7)

Conservation Report by Nancy Arbuckle



The SAS Board of Directors is on record opposing Cargill's plan for development of 1,436 acres of Redwood City salt ponds and is actively working against the proposed city of 30,000 on the Bay. The following gives recent news regarding this issue.

On April 16, 2010, the Planning & Conservation League (PCL) announced its opposition to Cargill's Redwood City salt pond development.

Send SF Bay Development Project - Not Wetlands - Down the Drain

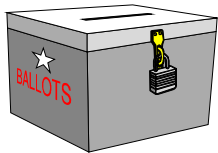
In the interest of protecting the San Francisco Bay, restoring wetlands, and preventing unwise development along the California coast, the Planning and Conservation League opposes the Saltworks 50-50 Plan that is backed by Cargill Inc. and Arizona-based DMB Associates. This development proposal would partly develop and partly restore a 1,436-acre former Cargill salt harvesting site in Redwood City, authorizing up to 12,000 housing units and commercial and public facilities in sensitive wetland habitat.

The salt ponds that will be filled and diked for the proposed Saltworks development provide the best opportunity to restore a portion of the 150,000 acres of valuable wetlands which have been destroyed by generations of development along the shores of San Francisco Bay. If restored, these ecologically sensitive salt ponds can provide natural flood protection. Such precautions will become increasingly important as sea levels rise in a warming climate; planners estimate that sea level will rise more than 4 feet by the end of the century, inundating shorelines and threatening \$62 billion worth of development along the Bay. This proposal will put even more people in harm's way. The California Climate Adaptation Strategy explicitly recommends against locating new development in low-lying areas.

The Saltworks project would also strain Redwood City's limited water supplies. Redwood City struggles to keep within its allocation of water from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. In an effort to secure water for the planned 25,000 new residents at Saltworks, DMB purchased the rights to water in Kern County, however, there is no existing infrastructure connecting the Hetch Hetchy water system with other major California water systems. So, if the Saltworks project goes forward, Redwood City will be relying on an uncertain water delivery system to pipe 591 million gallons per year from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

The Bay Area must accommodate growth, but it should do so sensibly, without sacrificing opportunities to restore valuable wetlands. Instead of filling restorable wetlands, the League is urging Redwood City to reject the Saltworks proposal. New housing should be focused near existing transit corridors and services, like in downtown Redwood City - not within Cargill's former salt ponds complex. The Planning and Conservation League has a long history of supporting efforts to protect San Francisco Bay; and therefore, we are pleased to join the chorus of conservation groups and elected officials opposing this project.

(PCL is "a statewide environmental coalition with a mission to protect and restore California's natural environment, and to promote and defend the public health and safety of the people of California, through legislative and administrative action. PCL partners with hundreds of California environmental organizations, to provide an effective voice in Sacramento for sound planning and responsible environmental policy at the state level.")



Save Our State Parks Initiative

The measure, officially called the California State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act of 2010, and slated for the November 2010 ballot, will create a stable source of funding for state parks. California vehicles will get free day-use admission to state parks in exchange for a new \$18 surcharge on vehicle license fees. Three SAS members, Nancy Arbuckle, Eileen Kay, and Sue Cossins, gathered signatures for this initiative.

The campaign reports that they have delivered 760,000 signatures, more than enough needed. Under state law, the campaign needs 433,931 valid signatures of registered California voters to qualify the initiative. Elections officials have until June 24 to certify the measure for the November 2, 2010 ballot.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

What can you do? We have lots of great jobs. Get involved with Sequoia Audubon and help the birds with some of these volunteer opportunities. Call Sonny Mencher at 650-366-3571 or check our website for more information, [http:// www.sequoia-audubon.org](http://www.sequoia-audubon.org).

Audubon Canyon Ranch

Hello, Members! Audubon Canyon Ranch is currently looking for hosts as bird breeding season begins. The public season at Audubon Canyon Ranch is from March 20 – July 11. Being a host is a easy task that involves counting people, giving trail directions, explaining a few rules, and asking for donations. Hours are from 10 AM – 4 PM, with two breaks and a lunch. The setting is beautiful and usually warm and sunny. Best of all, hosts are allowed to stay overnight at Volunteer Canyon either the night before, or the night of your hosting day. Birding in Volunteer Canyon, not open to the public, is wonderful. This is an amazing opportunity. The dates we still need to staff are Sat June 5, Sun June 6, Sun June 13, Sat June 19, Sat July 3, Sun July 4, Mon July 5, and Sat July 10.

If you can host on any of those days, or would like to help on a different day please let Laurie know as soon as possible. We can probably accommodate you. Contact Laurie Graham, 650-589-2133, fair80@comcast.net. For other volunteer opportunities, please visit http://www.egret.org/volunteer_opps.html.

Field Trip Chairperson

SAS is in need of a volunteer to fill the position of Field Trip Chairperson. The chairperson works with volunteer trip leaders to plan the various birding trips scheduled each month. The chairperson will coordinate leaders with schedule dates and provide the trip write-ups to the Administrative Assistant for publication in the newsletter and website.

Hospitality Co-chairs for Our Monthly Meetings

SAS is currently looking for additional Hospitality Co-Chairs to help with the monthly general meetings. This is a great opportunity to be of service to SAS and meet other people that share your birding interest. In this role you'll greet visitors and new members and assist with refreshments at the monthly general meetings. We meet on the second Thursday evening of every month September through June, for approximately three hours: 6:00 – 9:00 PM, at the San Mateo Garden Center.

Bluebird Coordinator

Our current coordinator is looking for someone to take over next year. It's fun and interesting! Contact Susan Kritzik for a job summary at sgkritzik@sbcglobal.net or 650-851-4529.

Database Administrator

We are in need of a computer-savvy volunteer for the position of Database Administrator. In this role you will work from home and keep the SAS database current. This will require updating the system with the monthly updates from National Audubon. You will also update the database with incoming donations and membership dues. Using the data you'll prepare the mailing list for the quarterly newsletter and necessary reporting. Knowledge of "FileMaker" would be helpful.

For more information on any of these opportunities, please contact Sonny Mencher at Sequoiaaudubon@yahoo.com or 650-366-3571.

(Other Birding Activities, continued from page 5)

for their great biodiversity of birds, butterflies, odonates and other insects, mammals, reptiles, and close to 1,000 species of plants.

[Rick Taylor](#) will be the Keynote Speaker this year. Rick is the founder of [Borderland Tours](#), a birding company dedicated to responsible ecotourism which operates trips throughout the world. His [Birder's Guide to Southeastern Arizona](#), published in 2005, is an essential toolkit for birders in SE Arizona. His new book will be released at the festival – plan to attend the official release and Rick will be happy to sign your copy of the new book.

The 35th Annual Meeting of Western Field Ornithologists

Embassy Suites Hotel, Palm Desert, CA

Wednesday – Sunday, October 13 – 17

Mark the dates on your calendar and plan to attend. Please check the website for planning, registration, workshops, field trips, and updates as they become available. <http://www.westernfieldornithologists.org/conference>

**SUPPORT LOCAL
CONSERVATION ISSUES**

Speak out! Your voice matters.
YOU can make a difference in local
conservation issues.

I'd like to be an e-mail "armchair
activist" once a month.
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SAS will NOT share your e-mail address
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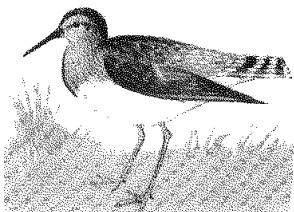
Time Valued Material—Please Do Not Delay

Volunteer Appreciation Event

On Saturday, April 24, Sequoia Audubon celebrated our volunteers with a morning at Hidden Villa in the Los Altos hills. The annual "Volunteer Appreciation Event" is a small way for SAS to thank all the people who work so hard to keep the SAS programs running smoothly – from the Board of Directors to project chairpersons and organizers of field trips for our members. It is the effort of many individual volunteers that allows SAS to thrive as an organization.

It was a beautiful morning and the day started with a bird walk led by Hidden Villa Environmental Education Director, Garth Harwood. The group did not have to go far to see wonderful spring species from Black-headed Grosbeaks to Warbling Vireos and Bluebirds to Wrentits. Our 90-minute walk gave us a list of just over 40 species!

A picnic lunch was catered by Woodside Deli and Board President Sonny Mencher had the opportunity to thank everyone for their efforts this year. If you or someone you know would like to be of service to Sequoia Audubon please let us know. Maybe next year you can be a part of this event! To learn more, please check the Volunteer Opportunities column in this newsletter or contact Sonny Mencher at Sequoiaaudubon@yahoo.com or 650-366-3571.

	Solitary Sandpiper	THE BIRD BOX RARE BIRD ALERT 415-681-7422
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SAS volunteers enjoying SAS Volunteer Appreciation Lunch at Hidden Villa, Saturday, April 24.

**Mission
Statement**

The mission of Sequoia Audubon Society is to participate in environmental education and conservation and in the restoration, preservation, protection and enjoyment of our native natural resources with emphasis on birds and their habitats.