



SEQUOIA
AUDUBON SOCIETY

SEQUOIA NEEDLES

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

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September-October 2011

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, APRIL 2011, PART 1

BY LYNDA BROTHERS

Imagine choosing your glass of rum punch over your binoculars as yet another Blue-crowned Motmot lands a few feet from your lounge chair on a beautiful sandy beach at Blue Waters Inn on the island of Tobago! That was the choice our group of birders made, having already seen close up dozens of these spectacular birds. If scenes like this don't capture your imagination, how about birding from the world renowned (at least amongst birders) veranda at the Asa Wright Nature Center. One is faced with an unrelenting assault of tropical birds including multiple species of tanagers, hummingbirds, and honeycreepers, as well as the occasional agouti or dragon lizard!

Our group of nine was ending our 10-day trip on Tobago Island after over a week on Trinidad Island. This multiple-island Caribbean nation was separated from South America in geologic time, so it's populated with a collection of both endemics and South American bird species. Our trip began at Asa Wright, which is a place I had wanted to visit from the time I began international birding some 30 years ago. It did not disappoint. Well-trained guides seemed omnipresent on the veranda and around

(Continued on page 5)



Nocturnal Oilbird and chick, Dunstan Cave, Trinidad. Photo by Bob Cossins

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

BY JENNIFER RYCENGA

First, thank you to the members of Sequoia Audubon who entrusted me and the newly-elected board with the responsibility to shepherd our organization in this exciting time! I look forward to serving as your president, and communicating with you through the newsletter, our email group, and our webpage.

I particularly want long-time members to share stories of Sequoia Audubon's earlier years as we work to construct a history of our venerable club, which is now 62 years old. The page on our website dedicated to history already contains a list of presidents. Let's add some colorful stories – of field trips, sightings, and personalities – that have made our time together notable.

The present is also exciting, as we look forward to three fall events: the Monterey Bay Birding Festival, the ABA mini-festival, and the Big Sit. The dates and details can be found in this newsletter and on our website. The renaissance of pelagic birding out of Half Moon Bay continues to yield county records and notable sightings. A Shearwater Journeys pelagic last month saw a Great Shearwater, a bird normally found only over the Atlantic.

But the future is the most exciting of all. The board intends to grow our membership and our reach, offering the best field trips, meetings, and web resources, in conjunction with a strong defense of native habitats and the friendliest birding experience in the Bay Area. Let's encourage young and old alike to join Sequoia, as we build a future where the sky is not the limit, but the place we look first for a healthy eco-system and a plethora of birds!

Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center

September

Thursday, 8th, 7:00 PM

Program: Tracking Bay Area Birds with the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

October

Thursday, 13th, 7:00 PM

Program: Ecuador 2010 - Land of Much Diversity

(See program details on page 2)

Upcoming Field Trips

(See trip details beginning on page 3)

New Field Trip Series!

First Wednesday of every month, starting in September

September

Wednesday, 7th Moss Landing
Sunday, 11th Coyote Point*
Sunday, 18th Bay Trail

October

Tuesday, 4th San Gregorio State Beach
Wednesday, 5th Hayward Regional Shoreline
Sunday, 9th Big SIT
Sunday, 16th Ellis Creek
Saturday, 22nd Filoli Estate

* Beginner/Family Trip

Check the field trip descriptions for any special information or requirements. Late comers may be disappointed. For all field trips bring your binoculars, water, sturdy walking shoes or boots, sun block, and hat, and always dress in layers

(Continued on page 3)

Sequoia Audubon Society

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MEETING PROGRAMS

BY SUE COSSINS

Birding Class: Tracking Bay Area Birds with the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

By Stephanie Ellis, Outreach and Communications Director, SFBBO

Thursday, September 8, 7:00 PM

Birds are excellent indicators of ecosystem health. They are sensitive to the slightest environmental change. The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory pays close attention

Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center
605 Parkside Way, San Mateo
*Parkside Way is west of Alameda
de las Pulgas, between 26th and
28th Avenues.*

to impacts on birds and their habitats and gathers crucial data specific to bird populations in the South Bay. Stephanie will discuss numerous projects the Bird Observatory conducts to preserve our native birds, with a focus on Snowy Plover recovery efforts and the California Gull monitoring program. Find out about the Bird Observatory's 30 years of landbird and colonial waterbird research and its leadership of the Bay's Western Snowy Plover recovery effort. Please join us for this fun and informative talk.

Due to a prior commitment, Stephanie will not be available to lead a follow-up field trip.



Giant Antpitta in an Ecuadorian cloud forest. Photo by Larry Kay

Ecuador 2010 - Land of Much Diversity

By Larry and Eileen Kay

Thursday, October 13, 7:00 PM

From October 15th - 25th last year, Larry, Eileen, and Sarah Kay, along with Marilyn Hemmeter, went on an adventure to Ecuador. In this program, Larry and Eileen will share the excitement of their trip and the variety of the wildlife they saw while traveling from the capital Quito to cloud forests to the 14,000-foot Papallacta Pass to the hot, steamy jungle of the Amazon.

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

BY LAURIE GRAHAM

The 2011 public season at ACR on Bolinas Lagoon ran from March 19th through July 10th. At the height of the nesting season there were 66 Great Egret nests, with 56 chicks in various stages still in residence at the time the Ranch closed for the season.

As in the past three years, the Great Blue Herons have eschewed the trees of Picher Canyon for those of Kent Island, and this year, the mainland in Bolinas. Snowy Egrets have not nested at Audubon Canyon Ranch for the past several years. Cliff Swallows nest under the eaves of all the Ranch buildings. Their chicks fledged over the weekend of July 1st. On the 10th, there were only a couple of active nests left. There were also fledglings of other nesting species: American Robin, Brewer's Blackbird, and Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco.

Sequoia Audubon Society is one of four chapters that raised money to save ACR from development 60 years ago, and we have continued to provide volunteer hosts for each public season since. If you would like to know more about hosting or volunteering on workdays at ACR, or becoming a Ranch Guide or Docent, please contact Laurie Graham at fair80@comcast.net or 650-589-2133.

New Field Trip Series!

Save the first Wednesday of every month (except November) for a terrific new field trip series led by Leslie Flint. Visit great birding spots during the quiet midweek.

Moss Landing, Monterey County Wednesday, September 7, 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

This trip will explore some of Monterey County's best fall birding hotspots. We will plan to bird at Moss Landing, Moon Glow Dairy, Zmudowsky State Beach, and other locations as we have time.

Directions: Meet at 7:00 AM at the Park & Ride at Hwy 280 and Woodside Rd if you want to carpool. Otherwise meet at 8:30 AM at the last parking lot on the left at the far end of Jetty Road, off Hwy 1 in Moss Landing. From San Mateo, take Hwy 280 south to Hwy 17 west to Santa Cruz. Take Hwy 1 south to Moss Landing (note the PG&E chimneys) and turn right on Jetty Road. Plan to have lunch with the group at a great local seafood restaurant.

Leader: Leslie Flint
lflint@earthlink.net

Coyote Point Recreation Area

Sunday, September 11, 8:00 AM

Coyote Point offers a variety of habitats that attract an enticing assortment of birds. Explore mudflats, a freshwater marsh, and a tree-covered hill. See shorebirds, ducks, terns, and migrating songbirds. Maybe you will spot the resident Harlequin Duck!

Directions: Coyote Point is off Highway 101, on the border of Burlingame and San Mateo. From the north, take 101 south, exit onto East Poplar Ave, turn right on North Humboldt, then right on Peninsula Ave. After you cross 101, Peninsula becomes Coyote Point Drive. Continue to the parking lot at the end of the road, next to the Yacht Club. From the south, take 101 north to the Peninsula Ave exit; turn right onto Airport Blvd. Then turn left onto Coyote Point Drive and continue to the last parking lot.

Leader: Francis Toldi 650-638-0919
f.toldi@yahoo.com

Beginners welcome

Bird the Bay Trail in South San Francisco

Sunday, September 18, 8:00 AM

We will meet at 8:00 AM at the public shore parking at Forbes Way. There will be a car shuttle to the airport Costco, so that we can have a longer, one-way walk with a bathroom at the end. Plan on spending four hours with the gulls, cormorants, returning ducks, and shorebirds along this beautifully landscaped multi-use path beside the Bay. Expect anything in the way of weather, from tee-shirt to four layers. Bring a scope if you have one.

Leaders: Laurie Graham and Jeff Fairclough fair80@comcast.net; 650-589-2133; On the 18th, call Laurie's cell at 650-438-3417.

San Gregorio State Beach

Tuesday, October 4, 8:00 AM – Noon

We will check the trees for migrants; enjoy the spectacle of seabirds, and walk to the edge of the marsh at this multi-habitat park. This is a state park, so there is a fee for parking.

Directions: San Gregorio State Beach is located at the intersection of Highway 1 and the terminus of Highway 84 (Woodside Rd.)

Leader: Jennifer Rycenga
smcbgeditor@earthlink.net

Hayward Regional Shoreline

Wednesday, October 5, 8:30 AM – Noon

This area – the *other* side of the Bay – is home to ducks, shorebirds, raptors, and songbirds. The eucalyptus, fennel, and coyote bush at the end of Winton Road often yield interesting land birds, but if things are quiet there, we will hike the Bay Trail to Hayward Marsh to look at shorebirds, terns, and whatever. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a scope if you have one. Easy, level trails.

Directions: Take Hwy 92 east across the San Mateo Bridge; take the first exit -- Clawiter / Eden Landing – and go north to Winton. Turn left. Follow Winton past the old park office to where the road ends at the last parking lot inside the gates.

Leader: Leslie Flint lflint@earthlink.net

(Continued on page 4)

Upcoming Field Trips

(Continued from page 1)

for hot sunny weather to cool windy conditions. While we make every attempt to stay on schedule, circumstances may dictate changes to field trip leaders, dates, or times.

For the latest schedule and updates always check the Sequoia Audubon web site or contact the trip leader.

Sequoia Audubon on the Web

Remember to check out our web site for updates on field trips, conservation news, and links to great birding sites.
www.sequoia-audubon.org



(Field Trips, continued from page 3)

The 17th Annual Big SIT! Pescadero State Beach

Sunday, October 9, Dawn – Dusk, but come anytime

This annual event will feature a Sequoia Audubon team, the SASsy Seawatchers, spending the day birdwatching and fundraising at Pescadero State Beach. Join us as we indulge in the birding equivalent of a tailgate party, stationed atop the hill overlooking the North Pond. The Big SIT is an annual birding event in which teams around the world station themselves in a 17-foot diameter area, and see how many species they can see and hear in a day from within the circle. People can come and go, so in addition to birding, we will have an ongoing party. The dedicated team of SASsy ones will be in place before dawn. Please stop by any time after that for a few minutes or hours and join us in this madcap adventure. We hope to detect between 60 and 80 species, but the sky's the limit! As a bonus, you can get to the SAS circle using the trails that connect to the recently installed bridge -- a project that Sequoia Audubon helped make a reality. Whether you can make it or not, please pledge a contribution to Sequoia Audubon or to an individual counter, either as a flat amount, or as a per species amount, as this event will be a fundraiser for Sequoia. For more information, contact Jennifer Rycenga and visit *The San Mateo County Birding Guide* at <http://birding.sequoia-audubon.org/>

Leader: Jennifer Rycenga smcbgeditor@earthlink.net

Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility, Petaluma

Sunday, October 16, 8:00 AM

This is one of our newest favorite places. Adjacent to Shollenberger Park, Ellis Creek is a water recycling facility that has attracted many birds. On our first visit there last December, we counted 45 species including 53 Common Moorhens. Each subsequent visit has been a surprise. Bring water, snacks, lunch (or spend birder money in Petaluma!), scopes, and a couple of layers. We will meet at 8:00 AM in the main parking lot, next to the restrooms. They are marked on the map at this site <http://www.petalumawetlandspark.org/HTML/elliscreek.html>, where more information is also available.

Directions: Take Highway 101 north to Highway 116, Lakeville Highway. Go east about one mile to South McDowell Blvd. You will pass the entrance to Shollenberger Park. After about 3/4 mile, McDowell will curve left. Rather than follow McDowell, take Cypress Drive instead directly into the facility, and turn left for the parking area. Please carpool! To participate in a carpool, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SequoiaAudubon/>.

Leaders: Laurie Graham and Jeff Fairclough.

While we don't normally take reservations for field trips, it will help if we know you are coming, so that we can wait until everyone arrives. Contact Laurie Graham 650-589-2133 or fair80@comcast.net. On the day, call Laurie's cell at 650-438-3417.

Filoli Estate, Woodside

Saturday, October 22, 8:30 AM – Noon

Filoli Estate is a property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. We have been invited for a morning of birding at this beautiful site on the edge of the San Francisco watershed. The grounds of Filoli include a beautiful formal garden surrounded by large oaks and trails leading to riparian, redwood, and farm habitats. Over 96 species of birds have been found here. Reservations are required because this trip is limited to 20 people maximum (sorry, no children under 14). No food or picnicking is allowed but all are welcome after the walk to buy light food and beverages at the Café

and visit the gift shop. No cell phones please!

Directions: Take Hwy 280 to the Edgewood Road exit; go west. Turn right/north on Cañada Rd and drive about one mile to the Filoli entrance. We will meet in front of the Visitors Center.

If you want to remain after the field trip to walk through the house and /or formal gardens, there is a \$15.00 entrance fee. Heavy rain cancels.

Leaders: Sue James and Donna Petersen. Call Sue James 650-348-0315 to reserve your spot.

ROBIN WINSLOW SMITH 1934 – 2011

Robin Winslow Smith was an active member of Sequoia Audubon for 20+ years. She was Chair of the Education Committee from 1991-1997; Chair of the Conservation Committee from 2002-2005 and member of the committee for many more years; Christmas Bird Count coordinator from 1996 – 2005, and President of Sequoia Audubon from 1999 – 2002. She fought many a battle with (primarily) Redwood City over bayside conservation issues involving one development project after another. She worked tirelessly for habitat protection, including the conservation of Bair Island and the protection of Bedwell Bayfront Park as open space.

Robin was born in San Francisco and raised in Saratoga and Palo Alto, attended Palo Alto High School and graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.A. She married Gordon Dean Smith, Jr. in 1956 and had four children, Mallory, Colin, Evan, and Alison. As her children grew, she received a M.A. from San Jose State and then taught special education for 20 years, primarily in the Fremont United School District.

Robin was an avid traveler – she visited all 50 states – standing on her head when she crossed a new state line! She drove up the Alaska Highway before it was paved. She explored all seven continents including trekking to Mt. Everest, traveling by train from Lake Baikal to Mongolia, going on safari in Africa, and weathering Antarctica. She loved the outdoors and hiking, camping, backpacking, sailing, and skiing were a big part of her life.

Robin died at home surrounded by her family, on June 15, just three days after her 77th birthday. Her sharp wit, sense of humor and friendship will certainly be missed.

If you wish to celebrate Robin through a charitable contribution, the family suggests you choose a local environmental organization such as Sequoia Audubon, Save the Bay, San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, or the Mono Lake Committee.

By Leslie Flint

(Trinidad & Tobago, continued from page 1)

the grounds as were other birders and naturalists of varied experience and international origins. Our group covered the range from beginning birders who literally arrived with their binoculars still in the box to people who have birded all over the world.

Our trip was put together by Caligo Venture Tours -- the only US booking company for Asa Wright. Our typical day began with morning tea or coffee (the AWNC was formerly the coffee plantation of an English family) and birding on the veranda, followed by breakfast and then our trip of the day. Meals were varied and good with much of the food grown on the grounds. Day trips took us to a variety of habitats including an agricultural station in the grasslands for day and night birding, the Nariva Swamp on the east side of the island for very scenic fresh and salt water marshes, and finally, a twilight boat ride in the Caroni Swamp in search of roosting scarlet ibis. One of our members was heard to say, "I can't remember the last time I actually *enjoyed* sitting in a rainy, mosquito-infested swamp, sipping rum punch, and looking at the sky in hopes of seeing a big red bird."

Spectacular birds also abounded at AWNC. It is probably the easiest place in the world to see the absolutely bizarre nocturnal frugivorous Oilbird. The Center monitors the number of birders allowed to visit the moist cavern where the Oilbirds roost during the day and although most experts agree that the species is stable, the number of such birds and number of breeding locations is much debated. A short walk around the grounds also took us to the displaying areas for two fascinating species of manakins -- the White-bearded and the Golden-headed Manakins. The displays of these males were amazingly vigorous, even late in the mating season. With their calls and rustling of leaves these little birds made quite a commotion. Further down the trail one finds the Bearded Bellbird on its breeding territory with its unmistakable song.

(To be continued in next *Needles* issue.)



May 28, 2011: House Finch nest with five eggs hidden behind a wreath on a Redwood Shores glass front door. Whenever the homeowner walked past her door the female bird would fly off the nest for a few minutes. Despite the frequent disruptions, the eggs hatched and the young birds successfully fledged.

Photo by Bob Cossins

SAN MATEO COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS AND SOMETHING NEW THIS YEAR!

December 17 – Crystal Springs Count

December 31 – Año Nuevo Count

Save the Dates!

Prior to the turn of the 20th century, people engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas "Side Hunt." They would choose sides and go afield with their guns; whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered (and furred) quarry won. Conservation was at its beginning stages then and many observers and scientists were becoming concerned about declining bird populations. Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman, an early officer in the then budding Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition -- a "Christmas Bird Census" -- that would count birds in the holidays rather than hunt them. So began the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Twenty-seven dedicated birders participated in 25 Christmas Bird Counts held that day. Those original 27 counters tallied around 90 species on all the counts combined! San Mateo County had its first CBC in 1948 (112 species) but began official annual counts in 1955 (126 species). Today the CBC is held from December 14 through January 5. This last winter there were 2,214 counts in over 40 countries tallying 61,359,451 total birds.

So do you want to be involved in something BIG? Join us for the 112th Annual CBC on either or both of San Mateo County's CBCs -- this year being held on December 17th and 31st. One of the fun things about participating in the CBC is the compilation dinner that follows at the end of the day. This year, the Crystal Springs count will again have its compilation at Laurelwood Round Table Pizza in San Mateo.

Because the Año Nuevo count happens on New Year's Eve Day, as an enticement to get everyone to participate we have a special compilation dinner planned. This year it will be a barbeque held at a private BARN south of Pescadero. The menu will include BBQ steak, chicken, salmon, and Portobello mushrooms, scalloped potatoes, green salad, artichokes, and dessert. Because this is such a special event we will be asking CBC counters to pay \$12.00 for dinner and Sequoia will make up the difference for the actual cost. AND, we thought it would be fun to invite non-CBC Sequoia members to this dinner as well at a cost of \$20.00 per person (which is our actual cost). Thus those of you who don't normally participate in the CBC will get the opportunity to have a great dinner and hear the results of the count day. And because we will end at 8:00, there is still time to get to another New Year's Eve party. This event will be by reservation only. More details in next *Needles*.

For information and questions, contact Leslie Flint
(lflint@earthlink.net)

SAS NEWS

SEQUOIA AUDUBON HAS A NEW LOOK

By Melissa Hero

Sequoia Audubon has been making some changes over the last few months. We have a fresh, new board, some amazing volunteers, and a great membership that encourages and supports us to grow and improve. We have been focusing on ramping up some of our programs to better meet our mission.

Some of our recent accomplishments are our expanding San Mateo County Birding Guide, increased educational outreach, the addition of a footbridge at Pescadero Marsh as part of the Trail Improvement Project, and our involvement in the fight against the Cargill Development. We also have become involved in two major upcoming festivals, the Monterey Bay Birding Festival and the ABA Half Moon Bay Conference.

Our most visible change is our new and improved logo. (Look at the heading on page one.) We are very excited to introduce you to our new, modern look. Matthew Dodder, a local birder, birding instructor, and graphic designer has revamped our image. We have kept the pygmy nuthatch as our local representative bird, but with a more contemporary appearance.

Matthew Dodder has been birding since he was 14 years old when he sprinkled birdseed on the snow after a heavy snowstorm and identified his very first Northern Cardinal. He has traveled around the world birding but says some of his most enjoyable birding experiences have been right here in the Bay Area. He has been an Advanced Birding instructor at the Palo Alto Adult School since 1999 and has served on the board of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. In addition to his outstanding birding and teaching skills, Matthew is an artist. He creates amazing field sketches as well as computer graphic images of birds. You can visit his Zazzle site to purchase some of his designs. For more information about Matthew's classes and artwork, visit his website: <http://birdguy.net>.

And if you love the new logo, Sequoia Audubon will be selling T-Shirts, Hats, Pins, and Car Window Clings sporting the design. Buy one for yourself, gifts for friends, and support your favorite Audubon chapter.



CONSERVATION COMMITTEE NEWS

By Nancy Arbuckle

Proposed Cargill Development

Sign the petition to urge the Redwood City Council to reject Cargill's massive salt pond development proposal because it will harm SF Bay, wildlife, and the region's quality of life.

Sign the petition at <http://www.DontPaveMyBay.org>.

KRIS OLSON MEMORIAL FUND

On January 6, 2010 an active and well-respected SAS board member, Kris Olson, passed away. Since then, several people have given donations to SAS in Kris's memory. Those funds have been used for a Kris Olson Memorial Bench as well as helping to fund an environmental program.

Bench Dedication

On Sunday, May 22, twenty people, including Kris' husband and two of her children, joined together at the bench placed in her memory at Bedwell Bayfront Park. SAS President Jennifer Rycenga led the group as we reminisced about Kris's life and how she touched us all.

The bench is situated along the northern slough near the restroom parking lot. It's a wonderful spot to sit, relax, and enjoy the sites and sounds of the salt water marsh.

Ted Chandik

3/11/1937 – 4/27/2011

Many of you may have had the pleasure of knowing Ted Chandik who passed away suddenly this spring. He was an avid and enthusiastic birder and naturalist; always happy to share his knowledge. He will be greatly missed.

OTHER BIRDING ACTIVITIES

Evening bird classes taught by Joe Morlan and endorsed by [Golden Gate Audubon Society](http://fog.ccsf.edu/~jmorlan/fall11.htm) will be starting September 14 and 15. All classes meet 7:00 -- 9:15 PM in room 139 at Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay St., San Francisco.

For information: <http://fog.ccsf.edu/~jmorlan/fall11.htm>

2011 Monterey Bay Birding Festival

Sept. 22-25, Watsonville Civic Plaza

The seventh annual Monterey Bay Birding Festival is the home of one of the most spectacular birding and wildlife venues in North America. The festival theme this year, "The Evolution of Birding - From Field Guides to Hi-Tech," will celebrate the days of John James Audubon to the modern days of hi-tech innovations in birding. Designed for birders of all levels, as well as outdoor lovers, the festival offers a unique opportunity to explore, learn, and appreciate world-class habitats such as the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Pinnacles National Monument. You'll be able to go to outings in the mountains, shoreline, chaparral, sloughs and grasslands. Joe Morlan, Debi Shearwater and Stephen Shunk are featured speakers.

This year the festival will include field trips, under the auspices of Sequoia Audubon Society, to Año Nuevo and Gazos Creek Road. You must register for these field trips through the festival. Visit their website at <http://www.montereybaybirding.org>. If you are attending the festival, look for the Sequoia Audubon booth!

For information: www.montereybaybirding.org

American Birding Association/Sequoia Audubon Society Half Moon Bay Conference

Friday, September 30 -- Monday, October 3

Sequoia Audubon member and noted ornithologist, Alvaro Jaramillo, working with the revitalized American Birding Association under new president Jeffrey Gordon, has arranged for Sequoia to co-sponsor the **ABA Half Moon Bay Conference**.

The conference filled up fast, but there will be many volunteer opportunities for Sequoia members.

Sequoia will welcome ABA members from around the country, introducing them to our rich weave of habitats, avifauna, migration, culture, and history. To help us present our best to the birding world, you can review the contents of the *San Mateo County Birding Guide* and, when you hike in these areas, send updates and improvements to smcbgeditor@earthlink.net.

For information on ways you can help at the festival: watch our website <http://www.sequoia-audubon.org/>

For information on the festival: <http://www.aba.org/events/2011halfmoonbay>

San Mateo and San Francisco Pelagic Goodies

Saturday, October 8, Full Day, Price \$130

Leaving from Pillar Point Harbor north of Half Moon Bay. This is a full-day trip into San Mateo and/or San Francisco county waters. We will be searching the continental shelf for concentrations of seabirds, hoping for a goodie such as Laysan Albatross, lingering storm-petrels, or something unexpected. October is a time when unusual birds can show up, such as our White-chinned Petrel a few years back. It is also when shearwater diversity is highest and we stand a great chance of Black-vented if the water is warm, as well as the uncommon Flesh-footed or perhaps an early Short-tailed Shearwater. I don't over pack the boat! I will keep it to 27 customers plus guides and support people on a boat rated for 40. Superb leadership - fun, informative, attentive!

For more information: <http://alvarosadventures.com/boat-trips/pelagics/> or email Alvaro Jaramillo (alvaro@alvarosadventures.com).

Shearwater Journeys Pillar Point Harbor Pelagic Birding Trips

Discounted price to SAS members is \$125, not including any fuel surcharges. (Retail price is \$175.) Available dates for 2011 are Sept 16, 18, and 19, and Oct 2, 10, and 15.

All trips depart from Huck Finn Center, 15 Johnson Pier at Pillar Point Harbor on Half Moon Bay in El Granada. Discounted price applies with the following conditions: Discounts apply only to actual members of SAS, and not their friends, or families; discounts are non-refundable and non-transferable for any reason. Only a certain number of spaces at the discount rate will be available on each trip. Advance reservations are a must. Include full name, address, phone and email. The harbormaster requires this information. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Debra Shearwater

Shearwater Journeys, Inc.

PO Box 190, Hollister, CA 95024

831-637-8527

debi@shearwaterjourneys.com www.shearwaterjourneys.com

Sequoia Audubon Society Membership Form

Individual membership for seniors (>62)
 Individual membership (<25)
 Family membership
 Donation to SAS

\$15.00
 \$20.00
 \$25.00
 \$
 \$

Total

Yes, I am interested in volunteering _____

Needles Newsletter Preference:

_____ Mail and / or _____ E-mail

E-mail address _____

Sequoia Audubon Society

PO Box 620292
 Woodside, CA
 94062-0292

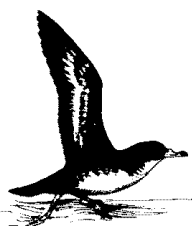
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May 26, 2011, Science Day, Brewer Island School, Foster City
 Eileen Kay, Kay Partelow, and Sue Cossins teaching birding skills to first graders.
 Photo by Sue Cossins



Black-vented
 Shearwater

THE BIRD BOX
RARE BIRD ALERT
415-681-7422

Renew your Membership!

Enclosed in this month's issue you will find a form to join or renew your membership in the Sequoia Audubon Society.

Although we are a local affiliate of the National Audubon Society, only a very small portion of our operating budget is supplied by the national organization; the vast majority comes from the donations and membership dues of our local members. Without your generous support we would be unable to continue our work.

Your membership will be good for one year, and will insure that you continue to receive this newsletter and have access to our programs and field trips. More importantly, your donation will help support our mission. You have read about many of our accomplishments of the past year in this and previous issues. We have many exciting plans for the future, but we need your help to see them through.

Please consider joining or renewing today.

Thank you!

Mission Statement

Sequoia Audubon Society protects native birds and other wildlife and their ecosystems in San Mateo County by engaging people of all ages in conservation, education, advocacy, and enjoyment.