



SEQUOIA

AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

Volume 63, No. 4
April 2013 — June 2013

Thailand - January 2013

By Robbie Fischer

Joe Morlan, two of our friends and I spent two weeks in Central Thailand. We arrived four days before our Sunrise Birding Tour to allow time to recover from our travel. We hired a Thai guide for two of those days to begin our introduction to Asian birds. On our first day we visited Pak Thale, wintering habitat for Spoon-billed Sandpiper. It is estimated that there are less than 300 of this iconic species in the wild. We were fortunate to have one feeding in the salt pans nearby and Joe was able to get a few photos. There were many shorebirds including Greater Sandpipers, Black-tailed Godwits, Marsh Sandpipers and Spotted Redshanks. Later that afternoon we took a ride through the mangroves to a sand spit in the Gulf of Thailand. Great-crested, Whiskered and Little Terns wheeled overhead and we saw our target Malaysian Plover.

The next day we explored drier marshes north of Bangkok and were pleased to see two species of jacana, a Coopersmith Barbet, Blue-tailed Bee-eaters, prinias, weavers and bulbuls. We stopped at a temple where Germain's Swiftlets nest. These are the nests that are used in bird's nest soup.

The final morning before the tour we decided to see the Grand Palace in Bangkok. It's a spectacular complex of temples and administration buildings with fabulous, gilded architecture. It was one of the most memorable experiences of the trip.

Nine participants, two leaders and a driver set off in two vans for Khao Yai National Park. We spent two days birding here. Some of the beautiful birds included both Blue and White-throated rock-thrushes, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Scarlet Minivet and Long-tailed Broadbill. At dusk we waited near a pond watching Brown-backed Needletails drinking on the wing.

(Continued on Page 6)



Orange-headed
Thrush.
Photo by
Joe Morlan

Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center

April

Thursday, 11th 7:00 PM

iNaturalist

May

Thursday, 9th 7:00 PM

Green Birding

June

Thursday, 13th 7:00 PM

Waterbirds of Alcatraz Island

Upcoming Field Trips

April

Wed., 3rd Pinnacles

Sun., 7th Jasper Ridge and

Pescadero Marsh

Sat., 13th San Gregorio

Sun., 21st Edgewood and

Pescadero Marsh

Sat., 27th Filoli and Mines Road

May

Wed., 1st Mitchell Canyon

Sun., 5th Burleigh Murray and

Pescadero Marsh

Sun., 19th Pescadero Marsh

Sun., 26th Garin Park

June

Sun., 2nd Pescadero Marsh

(Continued on Page 3)

Sequoia Audubon Society

OFFICERS

President	
Jennifer Rycenga	650-440-0063
Vice President	
Ginny Marshall	650-349-3780
Secretary	
Position Open	
Treasurer	
Michael Roche	408-249-6791

DIRECTORS

Leslie Flint, George Chrisman, Melissa Hero, Nelle Lyons, Susan Stratton, Alvaro Jaramillo

STANDING COMMITTEES

Audubon Canyon Ranch Host

Laurie Graham 650-589-2133

Audubon Canyon Ranch Advisory Board Representative

Francis Toldi 650-638-0919

Bluebird Recovery

Unfilled Position

Christmas Count

Al Demartini 650-345-6988

Leslie Flint 650-573-6279

Conservation

Laurie Graham 650-589-2133

Education Committee

Nelle Lyons, Melissa Hero, George Chrisman, Sonny Mencher

Field Trips

Ginny Marshall 650-349-3780

Hospitality

Edwin Geer 650-273-2902

JC Shaver 650-726-6840

Membership Database

Susan Stratton 650-574-7253

Needles Editor

Sue Cossins 650-560-9776

Publicity

Justine Carson 650-560-9776

PO Box 620292

Woodside, CA 94062-0292

Sue Cossins - Admin. Assist.

650-529-1454

office@sequoia-audubon.org

www.sequoia-audubon.org

Online Birding Guide:

www.birding.sequoia-audubon.org

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SequoiaAudubon>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SequoiaAudubon>

SequoiaAudubon

MEETING PROGRAMS

21st Century Citizen-Science: iNaturalist, eBird, and more! By Jennifer Rycenga and Scott Loarie

Thursday, April 11, 7:00 pm

Join us for a how-to meeting on using the photo-based observation data-base of iNaturalist, and a review of how to use eBird (and the new BirdLog app). iNaturalist co-administrator, Scott Laurie, will join us to explain the rationale, uses, and growth of iNaturalist; Sequoia Audubon president Jennifer Rycenga will also discuss how eBird and iNaturalist participation can together increase our knowledge of the habitats and wildlife of San Mateo county.

Accompanying Field Trip to San Gregorio State Beach & nearby migrant hotspots

Sat, April 13, 8:00am – 1:00pm

Meet at 8:00 at San Gregorio State Beach. State park fees apply. We will visit a few distinct habitats in the greater San Gregorio area, taking pictures to record our sightings in both eBird and iNaturalist. The field trip will be followed by a no-host (pay for your own food) shared data entry session at the Half Moon Bay McDonald's, from 1:30 to 3:00.

Leader: Jennifer Rycenga
smcbgeditor@earthlink.net

Green Birding

By Mark Kudrav and Josiah Clark

Thursday, May 9, 7:00 pm

Mark Kudrav and Josiah Clark will share stories and highlights from their "Carbon Free Big Year" experiences. Mark's 2011 Carbon Free Big Year (276 Species) included a month-long bicycle touring trip to the Sierra. He also will give an update on his current 2013 Carbon Free Big Year adventure. He hopes to share his motivations and experiences with the many advantages of Green Birding and even lay out

a San Mateo County Green Birding Challenge.

Josiah will share some highlights from biking and birding quests going back over a decade. He is a pioneer in the up and coming biking and birding movement. He observed 295 species in the 2008 Bigby Carbon free Big Year that included a 10 day round trip to Mono Lake from SF. With a new team and route, this year he hopes to take back the national carbon free Big Day record from New Jersey, where the Anti-petrels of Cape May New Jersey recorded 164 species.

Josiah will also share tips on how to minimize gear hassles and maximize enjoyable, safe birding time.

Mark Kudrav is a teacher and naturalist for San Mateo County Outdoor Education. He runs the school's Sustainable Living Center and Organic Garden. In his free time on the San Mateo coastside, he has focused on natural history study. His favorite subjects over the years have been animal tracking and birds. He is a faithful eBirder and dedicated bicycling birder.

Josiah Clark started a consulting practice, Habitat Potential in 2002, and has worked as a Consulting Ecologist doing surveys, management plans and interpretive trainings for the public and private sector. In 2009 Josiah co-founded Nature's Acres Nursery, an operation dedicated to the efficient production of vital habitat plants. Learn more at www.naturesacresnursery.com

Waterbirds of Alcatraz

By Victoria Seher, Alcatraz Biologist, National Park Service

Thursday, June 13, 7:00 pm

Alcatraz, notorious for the former federal penitentiary, is also the site of a very large and important breeding colony for several different egret, heron, and seabird species, including Western Gull. Also, the island is home to San

(Continued on Page 5)



FIELD TRIPS

BY GINNY MARSHALL

Pescadero Marsh – State Park Docent Nature Walks

First Sunday of each month is a morning walk starting at 10:00 am till Noon

The Third Sunday of each month is an afternoon walk starting at 1:00 pm till 3:00 pm

Walks in April are on the 7th and 21st

Walks in May are on the 5th and 19th

Walks in June are on the 2nd and 16th

The Pinnacles National Monument – whole day trip – 8:00am– 3:00pm Wed, April 3

The Pinnacles lies just south of Hollister and affords the opportunity to see California Condor in the wild. We'll also look for canyon wren, Lawrence's goldfinch, greater roadrunner, prairie falcon and more. This should be a good time for wildflowers as well.

Directions: Take Hwy 101 south through the city of Gilroy to Hwy 25 south. On Hwy 25, go through the town of Hollister and continue about 30 miles to Hwy 146. Turn right on Hwy 146, then turn left into the Pinnacles Campground and Visitor Center. Allow 2 hours driving time. \$5.00 entrance fee. Bring a flashlight for walking through the caves. Contact Leslie to carpool. **Leader:** Leslie Flint
lflint@earthlink.net

Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford University

Sun, April 7, 8:00am – 11:30am or so
Trip is limited to 16 people. There is a fee of \$5 per person that goes to Jasper Ridge.

Directions: will be sent to those registered.

We will carpool from a location about 2 miles from the entrance to Jasper Ridge. This is necessary since the Preserve is locked and parking outside the gate is not allowed.

Difficulty Level: Trip involves 2-3

miles of walking. We cross Searsville Dam and go around Searsville Lake. There are some moderate hills and uneven trails. **Leader:** Sonny Mencher (contact Sonny at sequoiaaudubon@yahoo.com to reserve a space.)

(Accompanying Field Trip to the iNaturalist Class of April 11) San Gregorio State Beach & nearby migrant hotspots

Sat, April 13, 8:00am – 1:00pm

Meet at 8:00 at San Gregorio State Beach. State park fees apply. We will visit a few distinct habitats in the greater San Gregorio area, taking pictures to record our sightings in both eBird and iNaturalist. The field trip will be followed by a no-host (pay for your own food) shared data entry session at the Half Moon Bay McDonald's, from 1:30 to 3:00.
Leader: Jennifer Rycenga
smbcgeditor@earthlink.net

Edgewood Natural Preserve Jointly sponsored by SAS and Birder's Garden

Sun, April 21, 9:00am – Noon

Upon our return to the store at noon we will be treated to refreshments and an open house and sale.

Additional discounts will be available to SAS members during this sale, even if you can't attend the field trip.
This leisurely paced approximately 2 mile spring walk at Edgewood Natural Preserve has been planned for prime time wildflower viewing and birding activity.

We will visit a variety of habitats including serpentine grasslands, oak woodland and chaparral – each with its own set of plants and animals.

The terrain is somewhat hilly so wear hiking boots, and bring binoculars if you have them but extras will be available.

Directions: Meet at 9:00am in the rear parking lot of the Birder's Garden, 926 El Camino Real, San

(June Field Trips from Page 1)

Wed., 12th Point Reyes

Sat., 15th Alcatraz

Sun., 16th Pescadero Marsh

Sun., 23rd Arastradero Preserve

Carlos.650-595-0300

We will form carpools for the short drive to Edgewood entering off Edgewood Road leaving some cars behind at the store. **Co-Leaders:** Sue Cossins

sas-sue@earthlink.net and Martha O'Neal. **Beginners are welcome.**

Filoli Estate

Sat, April 27, 8:30am to Noon

We have been invited for a morning of birding at this beautiful site on the edge of the San Francisco watershed land. In addition to birds, the wildflowers should still be blooming, especially in the shadier areas on the back roads. The grounds of Filoli have 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 required because this trip is limited to 20 people maximum (sorry, no children under 14). Participants may remain after the field trip to walk through the house and /or formal gardens at no charge. No food or picnicking is allowed but light food and beverages at the Café are available for purchase and the gift shop will be open.

Directions: Take Hwy 280 to the Edgewood Road exit; go west. Turn right/north on Canada Road and drive approx one mile to the entrance of Filoli. We will meet in front of the Visitors Center. Heavy Rain Cancels. Call Sue James (650) 348-0315 to reserve your spot.

Leaders: Sue James and Donna Petersen

(Continued on next page)

Mines Road – The Ultimate Spring Birding Trip

Sat, April 27, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Scouting Trip, Thurs, April 25, 8:00am

A variety of habitats provides a fascinating array of birds not found elsewhere in the Bay Area. This will be an all-day trip to this area in the Coast Range between Livermore and Hwy 5. We will look for Phainopepla, Prairie Falcon, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Lewis's Woodpecker, and Golden Eagles, along with sparrows and hummingbirds. Have a full tank of gas, water, and food since facilities are scarce. There are only 2 reliable restroom facilities, one at the lunch-time stop and another mid-afternoon. Weather is unpredictable, from cold and windy to hot and dry. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: Take the San Mateo Bridge (Hwy 92) east and follow the signs to Hwy I-580. Stay on 580 for about 25 miles to Livermore. Take the South Vasco Road exit and follow Vasco Rd. to Tesla Road. Turn right on Tesla; go about ½ mile and turn left on Mines Road. Follow Mines Road for about ¼ miles to the Murieta Wells Winery turnoff on the right. The winery has installed a new gate so simply pull up to it; go through and drive to the parking area by the winery itself where we will meet. Contact Leslie for carpooling. **Leader:** Leslie Flint lfint@earthlink.net

Mitchell Canyon

Wed, May 1, — whole day trip – 8:00am – 3:00pm

Mitchell Canyon, on the north side of Mt. Diablo is a great place to see a good variety of oak woodland and chaparral birds. This may be a little late for migrants but the wildflowers should be spectacular. Expect a mostly flat trail with a steeper trail to the chaparral habitat. Bring lunch and liquids.

Directions: Take Hwy 92 east to 880 north; continue on to 238 and 580. Take 680 north to Ygnacio Valley Road. Follow Ygnacio Valley Road to a right turn on Clayton Road. Turn right on Mitchell Canyon Road and go to the end. Meet in the Parking Lot. \$6 entrance fee. Contact Leslie to carpool.

Leader: Leslie Flint lfint@earthlink.net

Burleigh Murray State Park Beginner's Walk

Sun, May 5, 10am – Noon

Meet at the Burleigh Murray parking lot approximately 1 ½ miles east of Hwy 1 on Higgins Road, Half Moon Bay. This walk will last one to two hours. The walk is an easy round trip out and back from the parking lot. Depending on pace, we will possibly go as far back as the historic barn. The habitats include mature eucalyptus groves, grassy valleys, and an extensive riparian corridor along the ranch road. Year-round resident birds as well as spring-summer breeders can be observed along this lovely hike. **Leader:** Malia DeFelice maliaadances@yahoo.com

Garin Park, Hayward

Sun, May 26, 8:00 am -11:30am

Garin Park is a great place to look for brightly colored birds and is a short trip from San Mateo. See Orioles, Lazuli Bunting, Black-headed Grosbeak, Goldfinches and many more. Maybe we will find a baby coot. We will stroll around this mostly flat park, and may go down a wooded trail if the group wants. **Directions:** Cross the San Mateo Bridge. Before you reach 880 take Industrial Blvd south. Stay on Industrial when it crosses 880 and turn right on Mission Blvd. Turn left on Garin. The park is at the end of the road. You may need to pay an entrance fee.

Leader: Ginny Marshall ginnybirder@sbcglobal.net

Point Reyes – whole day trip – 9:00am – 3:00pm (Note change of date from First Wednesday)

Wed, June 12,

Early summer can be a good time to visit Pt. Reyes with the hope of some eastern vagrants and western migrants. Depending on the weather we may walk out to Chimney Rock as well as the Lighthouse so sturdy shoes and the ability to hike a mile are required. Clothing should be layered because the weather at Pt. Reyes is extremely variable. Meet at the Drake's Beach parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Contact Leslie to carpool from San Mateo. **Leader:** Leslie Flint

lfint@earthlink.net

(Accompanying Field Trip to the Alcatraz Presentation of Thurs, June 13)

Alcatraz Island Breeding Bird Colonies

Sat, June 15

(Tentative. Participants will be notified of any changes to time or date prior to paying fee.)

Limited to 25 people. \$28 (\$26.25 for seniors) for ferry ticket. Tour with a waterbird docent on Alcatraz Island for 1 to 1 ½ hours. Stay and tour the other areas of the island open to visitors on your own following the waterbird tour.

Participants are asked to register and pay in advance.

Registered participants will meet at Pier 33 in San Francisco at 8:45 am to catch the ferry. **Call or text Nelle Lyons** to reserve a spot. 650-515-9052

Arastradero Preserve

Sun, June 23, 8:00am -Noon or so

June is an exciting time at Arastradero. Breeding birds are frantically feeding growing nestlings, fledglings are leaving the nest and summering species have all arrived. We will walk 2-4 miles and try for California Thrasher, Lazuli Bunting, Western Bluebird, Ash Throated Flycatcher and many more. Bring water.

Directions: Take 280 south to Page Mill Rd. Go right (west) on Page Mill. Turn right on Arastradero Rd. The preserve parking lot is on the right side of the road.

Leader: Ginny Marshall ginnybirder@sbcglobal.net

OTHER BIRDING ACTIVITIES

(Sequoia Audubon does not sponsor the following activities.)

Other Birding Activities

Bird Walk at Edgewood County Park and Preserve co-sponsored by Friends of Edgewood

Sun, April 14 and May 12, 8:00 am to 11:00 am

Reservations are necessary and a donation to the Preserve would be appreciated. This is one of a series of events planned throughout the year to celebrate their 20th anniversary.

Sign up at <http://friendsofedgewood.org/year-of-edgewood>
Heavy Rain Cancels.

Directions: The Edgewood Park entrance is east of Hwy 280 on Edgewood Road in Redwood City. Gather at the bridge in the outer parking lot.

Leader: Susie Hons and additional leaders.

Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival

April 18 - 24, Arcata, CA

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Gary Langham, Audubon's Chief Scientist.

Contact: <https://www.godwitdays.org/>

2013 Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival

April 26-28, Pt. Reyes National Seashore

Observe birds of the ocean, coast, forest, and wetlands, and see spring wildflowers, whales, and seals. Keynote address by ABA President Jeff Gordon.

Contact: <http://www.pointreyesbirdingfestival.org/site/>

Kern Valley Spring Nature Festival (Earth Day)

April 27, Weldon, CA

Contact: <http://kern.audubon.org/KRVSNF.htm>

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

"Walk on the Wildside!" Outdoor Festival
May 18, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00p.m.

Beach Lake Preserve, Freeport, CA

If you'd enjoy a fun, FREE family-oriented day in the country with lively entertainment and up-close personal views of many wildlife species, mark your calendar and plan to attend Walk on the Wildside. Join Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge and local partners in celebrating International Migratory Bird Day and local conservation successes on the [SRCS D Bufferlands Beach Lake Preserve](http://www.srscd.org/bufferlands-beach-lake-preserve). The free event is held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. near the town of Freeport, California, at the Beach Lake Picnic Area.

Contact: <http://www.fws.gov/stonelakes/wow.htm> or call 1-916-875-WILD

"Road Scholar" Clearlake Birding Week at the Tallman Hotel. May 19 - 24, UpperLake, CA

Join Lake County's birding guide extraordinaire, Brad Barnwell for a fun and educational week based at the historic Tallman Hotel through the popular "Road Scholar" program. Redbud Audubon President Marilyn Waits is a speaker.

<http://www.roadscholar.org/n/program/summary.aspx?id=1%2D5RWX11>

12th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua Birds, Science, Art, Music, and Field Trips

June 14-16, Lee Vining, CA

All proceeds support continuing research in the Mono Basin.

Contact: Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541, 760-647-6595

<http://www.birdchautauqua.org/>

Nest Cameras

To view nesting birds go to www.viewnestingbirds.com

Red-tailed Hawk Nest at Cornell University

http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/16/Red-tailed_Hawks/?pid=2422&ac=nc

Peregrine Falcon Nest at San Jose City Hall

<http://www2.ucsc.edu/scpbgr/nestcamSJ.htm>

Meeting Programs (Continued from Page 2)

Francisco Bay's only Brandt's Cormorant colony and one of its most important Black-crowned Night-heron colonies. Alcatraz's rookeries are among the most accessible, offering visitors abundant opportunities to observe avian natural history up close.

Victoria will talk about these various waterbirds that nest on Alcatraz Island and she will give an overview of the research taking place on Alcatraz.

Accompanying Field Trip to the Alcatraz Presentation: Alcatraz Island Breeding Bird Colonies

Sat, June 15

See Field Trip listings for more info.

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)

Treasurer's Statement
by Michael Roche, Treasurer

If anyone wishes to review this financial statement in more detail, please
contact me at the SAS PO Box or SAS phone number listed on page 2

Sequoia Audubon Society, Inc.
Consolidated Balance Sheet
For the Year Ending
May, 31, 2012 (Unaudited)

Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,050
Equity securities	\$205,905
Property and equipment at cost, net of accumulated depreciation	\$ 2,489
Inventory Asset	\$ 1,587
Other Assets	\$ 991
Total Assets	\$214,022
 Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities	\$ 142
Equity	
Restricted Funds	\$ 6,006
Unrestricted Funds	\$184,667
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$214,022

Sequoia Audubon Society, Inc.
Consolidated Statement of Operations
For the Year Ending
May, 31, 2012 (Unaudited)

Revenue	
Grants	\$ 4,114
Membership Dues	\$ 4,390
Donations	
Membership	\$ 6,371
Restricted	\$ 1,359
Sales	\$ 1,708
Fundraising	\$ 3,658
Christmas Count	\$ 1,851
Misc Income	\$ 373
Investment Income, including net realized gains on investments	\$ 7,709
Total Revenue	\$31,533
Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 1,092
Gross Profit	\$30,441

Expenses	
Newsletter	\$ 8,237
Office	\$ 3,585
Pot Lucks & Food	\$ 1,272
Program Expense	\$ 1,150
Liability Insurance	\$ 1,344
Bank Service Charges	\$ 71
Garden Center Rent	\$ 1,500
Conservation Committee	\$ 92
Bluebird Program	\$ 153
Education Committee	\$ 78
Tax, Legal & Investment	\$ 547
Christmas Count	\$ 2,543
Membership Committee	\$ 179
Environmental Contributions	\$ 500
Professional Fees	\$14,741
Restricted	\$ 1,136
Other	\$ 104
Total Expense	\$37,234
Net Income	\$ (6,793)

(Thailand - Continued from Page 1)

Eventually leader Nick Upton spotted a Great Eared Nightjar and we counted four in all. The next day was a good day for woodpeckers as we saw Heart-spotted and Laced as well as an aptly named Greater Flameback. My other favorite sightings included Blue-winged Leafbirds, Sultan Tits and a striking Silver-breasted Broadbill with its chestnut rump and powder blue patches on the wings. Before lunch we visited the low marshy area behind the campground toilets and found the staked out Orange-headed Thrush, amazingly cooperative for photos. A mother, father and baby White-headed Gibbon family sat in trees near the road allowing close observation. Pig-tailed Macaques foraged along the road.

Our group also visited the area of Pak Thale for two days to see Spoon-billed Sandpiper and other shorebirds on our way to Kaeng Krachen. Near this park we spent four nights at Ban Maaka Chalet, set in a lovely habitat. Each day we visited the park and encountered many species of colorful barbets and broadbills along with 3 species of hornbills. A pair of White-fronted Scops-owls on a day roost was a treat. Two afternoons we waited in blinds near a water hole for close observations of laughing-thrushes, Asian Paradise Flycatcher and mouse deer. My favorites were the Siberian Blue Robin and Chinese Blue Flycatcher.

For a complete trip report, visit <http://fog.ccsf.edu/~jmorlan/Thailand/Thailand%202013.pdf>



Spoon-billed
Sandpiper
Photo by
Joe Morlan

Conservation

Feral Cat Colonies

(There are several in our county.)

Feral and free-ranging cats kill birds and other wildlife relentlessly, according to a range of studies. But they pose other threats as well — cats are also the primary host of a protozoan parasite, **Toxoplasma gondii**. Cat feces release the parasites into the air where they can be ingested by other mammals - a threat to pregnant women. The exceptional amount of fecal deposition found by researchers has been linked in part to a sharp increase in the feral cat population. That in turn has been blamed on cat owners who dump unwanted pets, and ineffective efforts to control the feral cat population by instituting “trap, neuter, and release” programs.

Excerpted from Steve Holmer, Senior Policy Advisor, American Bird Conservancy, sholmer@abcbirds.org



*Feral Cat Feeding Station
Bedwell-Bayfront Park, Menlo Park.
Photo by Sue Cossins, December 2012*

Cargill Saltworks, Redwood City

Stop Cargill from paving up to 1,436 acres of the San Francisco Bay!

Currently pending is a decision on federal jurisdiction.

For more information on this issue go to :

Redwood City Neighbors United <http://rcnu.org/> or Save The Bay <http://www.savesfbay.org/>

Sharp Park Golf Course, Pacifica

Wild Equity Institute is hopeful regarding protections sought for endangered frogs and snakes at Pacifica's Sharp Park. On five different occasions the San Francisco Board of Supervisors have voted to move forward with restoration planning at Sharp Park in partnership with the National Park Service. While the last vote was vetoed by Mayor Ed Lee, there is a new Board of Supervisors this year.

For more information go to: <http://wildequity.org/sections/5>

Plastic Bag/Styrofoam Ban is Catching On

Plastic bags and polystyrene (Styrofoam) food ware are two of the most common pollutants plaguing the San Francisco Bay. Over one million plastic bags end up in the Bay each year, degrading our wetlands and threatening wildlife. The good news is that more and more cities and counties are taking a stand against plastic pollution in the Bay. As of today 50% of Bay Area residents live in cities or counties that have passed or already implemented a single-use plastic bag ban, and almost 30% of all Bay Area jurisdictions have adopted a Styrofoam ban. Despite this progress, there is still much work to be done. Want to know how you can help?

Bring Your Own Bag, don't use Styrofoam and go to: <http://www.savesfbay.org/bay-vs-bag>

Sequoia Audubon Society Membership Form

Individual membership for seniors (>62) \$15.00
 and students (<25)
 Individual membership \$20.00
 Family membership \$25.00
 Donation to SAS \$ \$
 Total \$ \$

Yes, I am interested in volunteering _____

Newsletter Preference: _____ Mail and / or _____ E-mail

E-mail address _____

Sequoia Audubon Society
 P.O. Box 620292
 Woodside, CA
 94062-0292

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 SAN MATEO, CA
 PERMIT NO. 293

Howard Rathlesberger, Bluebirder Extraordinaire, Dies at age 94 - By Susan Kritzik

Howard Rathlesberger, who inspired many of us to maintain and monitor homes for cavity nesting birds with his boundless enthusiasm for the Western Bluebird, died in November after a long illness. His wife, Jean, said he enjoyed watching bluebirds bathe in the birdbath during his last days.

A native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Howard's love of nature and gardening was sparked by boyhood visits to his uncle's farm. He also took to engineering and carpentry while exploring his father's workshop and working as a stage crew member in high school.

He graduated from The Stout Institute (now University of Wisconsin-Stout) with honors in 1941.

Howard, with Jean and their two sons and daughter, spent many years moving around the country, working at a variety of machine tool companies and eventually starting his own business. For many years, he and Jean lived in their home in the Woodside hills where he had gardens (with Toyons for bluebirds!) and a huge workshop. There he built and taught others to build over 500 nest boxes. From finding and reusing scrap redwood, installing boxes on poles and in trees, and training and guiding the many county monitors, Howard did it all. He constantly improved the design of the boxes to make them safer for the birds, sturdier, and easier to monitor. Even as his vision failed, he was able to use templates to

build boxes, get out into the field to help the monitors, and compile the data from hundreds of nest boxes.

In 2006, Howard and Jean relocated to a retirement community in Southern California close to their younger son and his family. They chose a site, Regents Point, adjacent to parkland where many bluebirds nested. Soon, sixteen nest boxes were hanging in trees at Regents Point as well, being monitored by Howard!

Howard and Jean were docents at Filoli, members of Sequoia Audubon and later Sea and Sage Audubon. He received many awards for his work, including Woodside's Environmental Champion and a conservation award from the North American Bluebird Society.

Howard will be greatly missed, but his work lives on in hundreds of nest boxes throughout our county and in the lives of all of us that he inspired.



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.