



SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

Volume 63, No. 3
February 2013 — March 2013

Recaps of the December 2012 SAS Christmas Bird Counts

By Leslie Flint, CBC Coordinator and Peter Metropulos, County Records

Leslie writes:

"The **Crystal Springs CBC** held on Dec. 15, 2012 had a preliminary species count of 188. We were lucky to have cold and dry conditions in the morning, and then rain throughout the afternoon. Since there was little wind, we had a slow seawatch with no tubenoses reported. Ron Thorn's report of 270,000 common murres was extraordinary. Highlights, in addition to posts from Jennifer Rycenga (Grasshopper Sparrow, a first for the count) and Ron Thorn included 3 Golden Eagles (2 at the dump, 1 at Huddart Park); 2 Bald Eagles (Crystal Springs); 8 species of owls (3 burrowing at Bair Island, long-eared in El Granada and short-eared at Wavecrest); 9 species of warblers (incl. Palm, Black & White, Tennessee); Violet-green Swallows among the flock of Tree Swallows; Pileated Woodpeckers in 2 locations; Rose-breasted Grosbeak at a feeder in El Granada; 9 Clapper Rails in a Millbrae marsh and 3 in Foster City; 4 Swamp Sparrows in HMB; and a Townsend's Solitaire in the SF Watershed. And finally (for me and Judy Spitler), the often elusive Harlequin Duck was hanging out at the San Mateo Bridge.

The **Ano Nuevo CBC** held on Dec. 29, 2012 had mixed weather - rain in the upper reaches; glorious sun in the afternoon along the coast. We tallied a preliminary 162 species which is somewhat below average for this count despite managing to find most of the count week rarities and then some. (Three additional Count Week Birds were Canada Goose, Black & White Warbler and Western Sandpiper.) Highlights included: continuing ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK along Stage Road; FERRUGINOUS HAWK off upper Pescadero Road; BLUE- GRAY GNATCATCHER and SWAMP SPARROW, Pescadero Marsh; numerous WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS; GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE; the continuing annual EASTERN PHOEBE on Stage Road; cooperative BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER and a YELLOW-BELLED SAPSUCKER on private property on Pescadero Road.



Eastern Phoebe, Stage Road near Pescadero
December 30, 2012. Photo by Joe Morlan

Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center

February

Thursday, 14th 7:00 PM

Return of the Bald Eagles

March

Thursday, 14th 7:00 PM

Neotropical Migrants

Upcoming Field Trips

February

Sun., 3rd Pescadero Marsh

Wed., 6th Hayward Shoreline

Weekend, 15th- 18th

6 GBBC Mini Trips

Weekend, 16th - 17th

Panoche Valley and Merced County

Sun., 17th Pescadero Marsh

March

Sat., 2nd San Mateo Co. Beaches

Sun., 3rd Pescadero Marsh

Wed., 6th Coyote Hills

Sun., 10th Edgewood Park

Sun., 17th Pescadero Marsh

Sequoia Audubon Society

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Online Birding Guide:

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[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SequoiaAudubon)

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MEETING PROGRAMS

Return of the Bald Eagles – The Success Story

By Glenn Stewart, Director of the Predatory Bird Research Group

Thursday, February 14, 7:00 PM

The Bald Eagle is making a comeback in the Central Coast Region where twenty-seven nesting territories are now known, including one on the slope above Crystal Springs Reservoir. The reestablished population was made possible by a ban on most uses of DDT and an aggressive recovery program initiated cooperatively by Ventana Wildlife Society and the UC Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group in 1984. Glenn Stewart will describe the recovery program that included annual collections of Canadian eaglets that were transported to the Big Sur Coast for release. No Bald Eagles nested south of Shasta Lake in 1984. The program was a great success with at least 275 eaglets fledged from Central Coast nests in recent years.

Glenn Stewart is the director of the Predatory Bird Research Group, teaches at UC Santa Cruz, and initiated the Central Coast Bald Eagle Recovery Program. He has also served as executive director for the Idaho Conservation League and as program leader for a Colorado River Harris' hawk recovery program. He currently studies the recovered San Francisco Bay Area Peregrine Falcon population.

Neotropical Migrants

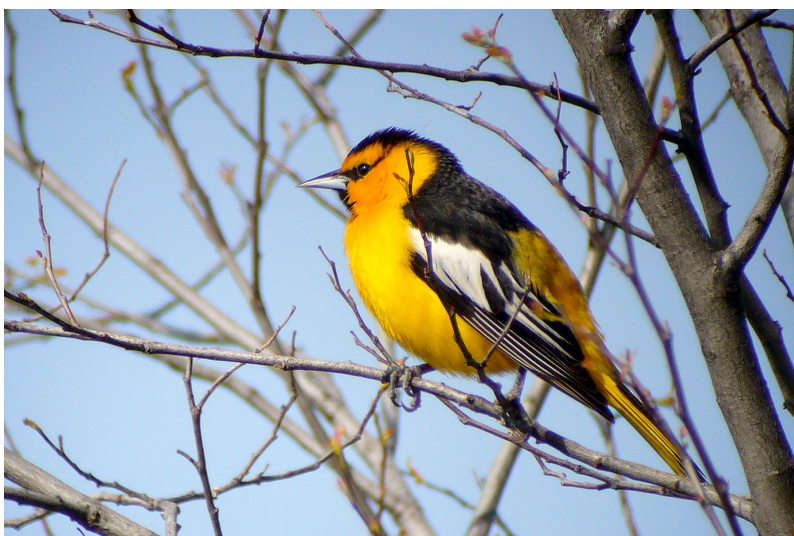
By Joe Morlan

Thursday, March 14, 7:00 PM

This presentation will focus primarily on species that breed in the San Francisco Bay Area but migrate long distances to Mexico, Central America and South America for the winter. The costs and benefits of migration will be discussed as well as theories about the evolution of migration and various migration strategies. We will speculate on the roll of climate change in the behavior of these migratory species, many of which are declining because of loss of habitat on their wintering grounds.

This lecture will be illustrated by original photos. Please join us for what promises to be an entertaining and informative presentation.

Joe Morlan is co-author of "Birds of San Francisco and the Bay Area" and "Birds of Northern California. He also is an ornithology instructor at City College of San Francisco and an accomplished discographer.



Bullock's Oriole by Joe Morlan



FIELD TRIPS

BY GINNY MARSHALL

Hayward Regional Shoreline – ½ day trip

Wed, Feb. 6th, 8:30 am – noon

A trip to the other side of the Bay. This area is home to ducks, shorebirds, raptors, and songbirds. The eucalyptus, fennel, coyote bush at the end of Winton Road often yield interesting land birds, but if things are quiet here 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; exit at the first exit: Clawiter/Eden Landing and go north to Winton where you turn left. Follow Winton to where the road ends at the last parking lot inside the gates and past the old park office.

Leader: Leslie Flint

(lfint@earthlink.net)

Six Great Backyard Bird Count Mini-trips – weekend of Feb 15th through Feb 18th:

Fri, Feb. 15th

These trips are intended for beginners, as well as experienced birders. We will walk around a small area for 60-90 minutes, collecting data for the annual Great Backyard Bird Count. Please join us, and encourage friends, family, children, and adults to discover the joys of birding!

9:00-10:30 am – Pillar Point Harbor, Half Moon Bay – Meet in the parking lot at the end of West Point Drive (sometimes called the Mavericks lot). We will walk out to the breakwater and back.

Noon-1:30 pm – Radio Road, Redwood Shores – Meet in the parking lot just past the Dog Park on Radio Road, and join in counting the many shorebirds and waterfowl that love this spot

3:00-4:00 pm – Union Cemetery, Redwood City. Meet at the entrance to this small wedge of a cemetery (and a California historic landmark) on Woodside Road (CA 84), just west of El Camino Real. Directions can be found in the San Mateo County Birding Guide.

Leader: Jennifer Rycenga

(smcbgeditor@earthlink.net)

Sat, Feb. 16th

Cowell-Purisima Trail

8:30 am – 1:00 pm This is a rescheduled trip from December 2012. This morning's field trip will explore the new Cowell-Purisima Trail, opened by Peninsula Open Space Trust in 2011. This area features an extensive coastal terrace prairie, similar to Wavecrest. Therefore, this trip would be especially appropriate for photographers – both new and experienced – because of the sweeping vistas and hawks in flight. We will survey this area for birds as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count, which should include raptors, sparrows, seabirds, shorebirds, and blackbirds, among others. Wear boots or solid footwear, as the trail is likely to have some muddy points.

Directions: meet at the parking lot on California Route 1 just south of Half Moon Bay, about three miles south of the intersections of Rts. 1 and 92, across from the produce stand. For more information see http://www.openspacetrust.org/activities/outings_cowell_purisima_trail.html

Leader: Jennifer Rycenga

(smcbgeditor@earthlink.net)

Burleigh Murray State Park

Sat, Feb. 16th, 2:00 pm

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 a round trip out and back possibly as far as the historic barn about 1 mile easy walk from the parking lot.

Leader: Nelle Lyons

(nelle.lyons@parks.ca.gov)

Bean Hollow State Beach

Sun, Feb. 17th, 10:00 am

Meet at the Pebble Beach parking lot on Hwy 1 approximately 2 miles south of Pescadero Road.

The Bean Hollow trail is approximately 1 mile long between Pebble Beach and Bean Hollow. The round trip walk will take between one and two.

Leader: Ginny Conboy

(conboyginny@yahoo.com)

Pescadero Marsh

Sun, Feb. 17th, 1:00 pm

See description for regular Marsh walk. Rain cancels.

Francis Beach

Mon, Feb. 18th, 10:00 am

Meet at the Half Moon Bay State Beach Visitor Center, 95 Kelly Avenue. This is a wheel chair accessible birding field trip along the Coastal Trail north from the Visitor Center at Francis Beach to Dunes Beach and back.

Rain cancels.

Leader: Nelle Lyons

(nelle.lyons@parks.ca.gov)

Panoche Valley and Merced County Wildlife Refuges - Weekend Trip

Feb. 16th-17th

Panoche Road

Sat, Feb. 16th, 8:00 am– 5:00 pm

This trip traverses raptor habitat, which usually produces Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk and more. We also hope to see Mountain Bluebirds, Mountain Plovers, Roadrunners, and various sparrows. At Mercy Hot Springs we will look for Long-eared Owls. A fee of \$5 per person is required for this location. Spend the night in Los Banos, followed by a day in Merced County.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at the Paicines Reservoir, on the right just past the intersection of Hwy 25 and J-1

(Field Trips continued on page 4)

(Field Trips continued from page 3)

in Paicines, 12.5 miles south of Hollister. From there we will drive east through Panoche Valley, ending at I-5 and Little Panoche Road. Be sure to start from Hollister with a full tank of gas.

Leader: Leslie Flint (lflint@earthlink.net)

Merced County Wildlife Refuge

Sun, Feb. 17th, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

The day will be spent birding the Merced County Wildlife Refuges. We will look for waterfowl, shorebirds, Sandhill Cranes, and over-wintering rarities. We will end the day at about 3:00 PM to allow us to get home at a reasonable hour.

Directions: Meet at 8:00 AM at Merced National Wildlife Refuge on Sandy Mush Road.

Reservations for this trip are required. Limited to the first 20 who sign up.

Contact Leslie for motel suggestions, directions, carpooling arrangements (urged), and any other questions.

Co-Leaders: Leslie Flint, (lflint@earthlink.net) or 650-619-0836 (cell) and **Kim Kuska**

The Under-birded Beaches of San Mateo County

Sat, Mar. 2nd, 8:00 am to noonish

This trip will explore the under-birded State Beaches of the San Mateo Coast: San Gregorio and Pomponio. We will continue to Pescadero and/or Bean Hollow if time permits or rarities insist. Pelagic birds, migrants, shorebirds, marsh birds, and more. Car-pooling encouraged. Bring a State Park Pass, or pay the State Park day use fee. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: Start at the parking lot of San Gregorio State Beach, junction of SR 1 and SR 84 at 8:00 am sharp.

Leader: Jennifer Rycenga (650) 440-0063 or email (gyrrlfalcon@earthlink.net)

Coyote Hills Regional Park, Fremont - ½ day trip.

Wed, Mar. 6th, 8:30 a.m. - noon

Directions: Coyote Hills is at the west end of Patterson Ranch Road/Commerce Drive in Fremont. From I-880, take Highway 84 west, exit at Paseo Padre Parkway, turn right, and drive north about one mile. Turn left on Patterson Ranch Road. This is the park's entrance road and will take you to the picnic areas and visitor center. Parking fees may apply.

Leader: Leslie Flint (lflint@earthlink.net)

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

Sun, Mar. 10th, 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>)

The early morning start allows us to be in the park when the birds are most active.

On this 3 to 4 mile, moderately strenuous walk through woodland, chaparral, and grassland, you'll learn which resident and migrating birds use Edgewood Park and what native plant communities they depend on. We will likely see Raptors, Sparrows, Warblers, Bluebirds and many more. The Bill and Jean Lane Education Center will open on weekends at 9:30 am, and the walk will end at the Center so you can visit there at your leisure. 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.

Leaders: Sue Cossins (sas-sue@earthlink.net) and **Martha O'Neal**

Pescadero Marsh – State Park Docent Nature Walks - Beginner/Family Nature Hike

First Sunday of each month is a morning walk starting at 10:00 am till 12:00 Noon

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

Walks in Feb. are on the 3rd and 17th

Walks in Mar. are on the 3rd and 17th

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.

Questions: Call 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.



Field trip to Radio Rd. Pond following a San Carlos Library Presentation, "The Birds of San Mateo County" by Sue Cossins on December 8, 2012. Assisting with library field trips were Leslie Flint, Sonny Mencher, Martha O'Neal and Susan Peterson.

Photo by Bob Cossins

OTHER BIRDING ACTIVITIES

(Sequoia Audubon does not sponsor the following activities.)

Spring Birding Classes

Evening bird classes taught by Joe Morlan and endorsed by Golden Gate Audubon Society will be starting February 5 and 6, 2013. All classes meet 7-9:15 p.m. in room 218 at City College of San Francisco, John Adams Campus. Free parking is in the school lot adjacent to the building at 1860 Hayes Street.

The instructor is co-author of "*Birds of San Francisco and the Bay Area*" and "*Birds of Northern California*." He is also coordinator of the recorded "Northern California Birdbox" sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society. Slides illustrate all lectures, and the text for all classes is "*A Field Guide to Birds of North America*", sixth edition, by the National Geographic Society. "*The Sibley Guide to Birds*" is recommended as an adjunct text for both classes. Ornithology I will not be offered this semester.

Field Ornithology II meets on Wednesdays. It is a continuing in-depth study of North American land birds including tanagers, buntings, blackbirds and orioles. Part A (EA110) starts February 6 and ends March 20; Part B (EA115) starts April 3 and ends May 15.

Field Ornithology III meets on Tuesdays. It is a continuing in-depth study of the identification and status of North American waterbirds including gulls, terns, jaegers and alcids. Part A (EA120) starts February 5 and ends March 19; Part B (EA125) starts April 2 and ends May 14.

The instructor may arrange optional field trips on weekends. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them. Fees are \$145 for seven week classes but there is a **\$15 discount for each class if you pre-register at least a week early.**

Further information: (415) 561-1860. You can register online at (<https://www.evolveww.com/ce.ccsf/>)

17th Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival

Friday, Feb. 8 thru Feb. 10, 2013, Vallejo, CA

Bird Walks, Festivals and Fairs, Trips and Tours, including field trips to San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Location: Mare Island, Building 223, 500 Connolly Street, Vallejo, CA 94592

For more information: (www.sfbayflywayfestival.com/)

**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)

Contact Information: Myrna Hayes 707-557-9816 or 707-249-9633 or by email at (myrnahay@pacbell.net)

34th Annual Winter Wings Festival

February 14-17, 2013, Klamath Falls, OR

Produced by the Klamath Basin Audubon Society this festival is the longest running bird festival in the nation. A small gathering that began as the Bald Eagle Conference over 30 years ago has now become an incredible event for bird enthusiasts of all stripes. Over 500 people have registered for the festival in recent years to enjoy presentations, workshops, field trips, and family activities. The 2013 festival is once again loaded with birding and nature photography talent, with the program expanded to include four full days, over the Presidents Day weekend. Oregon Institute of Technology will again serve as the main venue, although some activities are set at the Running Y Resort.

Information: (<http://www.winterwingsfest.org/>)

Keynote speaker: SAS Board Member, Alvaro Jaramillo

17th Annual San Diego Bird Festival

February 28- March 3, 2013 Marina Village Conference Center, at Mission Bay Park, San Diego

The Conference Center is just steps away from San Diego's species-rich San Diego River estuary. Nearby islands, Mexico's Islas Los Coronados, complement the ocean view and offer the possibility of adding exotic pelagic bird species to festival-goers' birding lists.

Keynote speaker is John Fitzpatrick, the director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, with special guest, Bill Thompson, the editor of Bird Watcher's Digest.

Information: (www.sandiegoaudubon.org)

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

Workshops with Alvaro Jaramillo

Sparrows - The Little Brown Jobs: March 26th, 28th, and 31st.

Join acclaimed biologist and naturalist Alvaro Jaramillo for these fun and informative workshops. Workshops include two classroom sessions and a full-day field trip. Put your birding into an ecological context!

Each workshop is \$150 per person. You must have an active membership to register for a workshop. **RSVP:**(<http://www.sfbbo.org/activities/workshops.php>)

Other good finds included 37 Snowy Plovers south of Gazos; 1 Ruddy Turnstone with 40 Black Turnstones on the coast near White House Creek; Northern Fulmar and Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater from the lighthouse; Red Crossbills in several locations. Notable misses: Dipper (not found in its usual locations); Greater Yellowlegs and most of the shorebirds which have been lacking in recent years due to the flooding of Pescadero's north marsh. Thank you to everyone who participated - we can't do it without you!"

Peter Metropulos writes:

"I had the pleasure of accompanying a lively and enthusiastic band of birders on the Ano Nuevo CBC held on Dec. 29, 2012. Among the ranks were Cedric Duhalde, Kimberly Jannarone, Michael Park, and Dominik Mosur. Our territory consisted of Pescadero, the creek, agricultural fields, and town proper - from Water Lane East to the High School and Butano Cut-off. We began our cool and damp morning at the State Park parking lot at the end of Water Lane. GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS (9) were among the first birds we saw and heard in the willows here. A GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE flying east overhead was a surprise. A COMMON MERGANSER flying up the creek was more expected. An elusive HOUSE WREN hid in blackberry brambles. Large groups of high-flying AMERICAN ROBINS appeared overhead, totaling over 900 individuals, all moving east into the Santa Cruz Mountains. At the Willow Farm, a herd of horses was surrounded by an even larger "herd" of GREAT EGRETS: 15 individuals in the soggy pasture (looking for worms??), looking like giant cattle egrets ("horse herons"?). A WILD TURKEY foraging in a weedy vegetable garden near Level Lea Farms caught our attention. Lately the heavy rains have caused Butano Creek to overrun its banks and flood agricultural fields along Pescadero Road near Bean Hollow Road, resulting in visitation by a variety of waterfowl. Among the assortment we tallied RING-NECKED DUCK (21), CINNAMON TEAL (5), and HOODED MERGANSER (3). Behind Duarte's Restaurant, we found a WHITE-THROATED SPARROW working the compost pile. Two WHITE-THROATED SWIFTS, always a good find, were spotted flying overhead (as usual). A hard-to-find marshy spot just west of the Stage Road/North Street crossroads yielded a vocalizing VIRGINIA RAIL. The highlight of our visit to Phipps Family Farm was an unprecedented high count of WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS. We carefully counted EIGHT individuals between the apple orchard and the vegetable garden! Also here was a SLATE-COLORED JUNCO; however no trace of the Black & White Warbler I observed at this location yesterday. We ended up the day in the fields behind Pescadero High School where a group of 14 WESTERN MEADOWLARKS lifted our spirits. RECORD HIGH COUNTS for the day included 157 EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVES and 54 AMERICAN CROWS. COMMON RAVENS numbered 152. RAPTORS were represented in impressive variety: WHITE-TAILED KITE(4), NORTHERN HARRIER(2), SHARP-SHINNED HAWK(5), COOPER'S HAWK(2), RED-SHOULDERED HAWK(6), RED-TAILED HAWK(12), GOLDEN EAGLE(1 sub-adult), AMERICAN KESTREL(3), MERLIN(3), PEREGRINE(2). Also a pair of GREAT HORNED OWLS was heard calling near sundown. Other NOTEWORTHY counts included BELTED KINGFISHER (1), WESTERN BLUEBIRD (15), ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (13), TOWNSEND'S WARBLER (54), PINE SISKIN (630), and TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD (130). A Great Day was had by one and all! Pleasant surprises await us. ENJOY NATURE, BE HEALTHY, PROSPER and I hope to hear from you in 2013."

16th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

The 2013 GBBC will take place Friday, February 15, through Monday, February 18. The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds. Beginning in 2013, GBBC checklists will be accepted from anywhere in the world! Participants tally the number of individual birds of each species they see during their count period. They enter these numbers on the GBBC website. Beginning in 2013, each participant must set up a free GBBC account to submit their checklists. You'll only need to do this once to participate in all future GBBC events. As the count progresses, anyone with Internet access can explore what is being reported from their own towns or from anywhere in the world. Participants may also send in photographs of the birds they see for the GBBC photo contest. A selection of images is posted in the online photo gallery.

To learn more go to: (<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/whycount.html>)

Conservation

Snowy Plovers by Margaret Goodale, Science Educator, Pacifica

Snowy Plovers winter at Linda Mar where the city has allowed dogs basically without restraint. Several years of efforts by the Pacifica Shorebird Alliance to protect the Snowy Plovers at Linda Mar have been resisted by city staff. Because dogs are allowed on the beach, symbolic fencing becomes necessary to provide a small area free from disturbance for migrating birds. Recommendations for symbolic fencing from PRBO and USFWS have been ignored by the city staff.

As members of the PSA, we are very sad to see our Snowy Plovers disappearing due to inaction on the part of the City of Pacifica. Pacifica needs immediate, effective measures to reverse the local decline and prevent our CA-48 recovery section from failing completely.

We ask that Audubon members send a copy of the letter below to our City Council members urging them to take positive action. Audubon members are welcome to either tone down or beef up the letter as preferred.

We will be grateful to everyone who adds their voice for the plovers by sending a copy of the following letter (also available on SAS website) or write in your own words to:

Mayor Pro Tem Len Stone, (lenstonepacific@gmail.com); Sue Digre, (sdigre3@gmail.com); Karen Ervin, (kervinpacific@gmail.com); Mike O'Neill, (ilikemike2012@yahoo.com); MaryAnn Nihart, (mnihart@pacbell.net); Dan Cordova (DanCordova@FWS.gov); Paul Keel, (pkeel@parks.ca.gov); Dan Carl, (Dan.Carl@coastal.ca.gov); Lynne Stenzel, (lstenzel@prbo.org)

Sample letter:

Pacifica City Council Members Digre, Nihart, Stone, Ervin and O'Neill
City Hall
170 Santa Maria Avenue
Pacifica CA 94044

Dear Pacifica City Council,

As a supporter of wildlife and conservation, I urge the City of Pacifica to honor the Endangered Species Act and the International Migratory Bird Treaty and immediately proceed to establish meaningful protections for the Snowy Plover at Pacifica State Beach.

The fact that Pacifica's wintering population of Snowy Plovers has declined by more than 60% over the past nine years is of concern to all Audubon members. Because Pacifica chooses to allow dogs on Pacifica State Beach in contradiction to the California Code of Regulations Title 14 section 4312, the City has put further at risk a federally listed species. By refusing to act on recommendations from Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) in 2009 and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 2011 to delineate any safe area for roosting plovers by installing symbolic fencing, the City has allowed local threats to the survival of this species, listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, to continue daily.

In November 2012, the California Coastal Commission approved Pacifica's application to impose fees for beach parking to pay for two rangers at the beach to maintain restrooms and enforce existing leash laws. As a condition for approval, the CCC permit includes symbolic fencing as part of Condition 3. Pacifica's compliance with Condition 3 will not only place dedicated rangers on the beach, but will mean that rangers can also maintain the symbolic fencing.

Placing temporary, moveable fencing west of the dunes is potentially the single most effective measure to reduce illegal harassment of the Snowy Plovers. Inaction is no longer a choice.

Thank you,

(Your name and address)

cc. Dan Cordova, USFWS
Paul Keel, California State Parks
Dan Carl, Deputy Director, California Coastal Commission
Lynne Stenzel, Point Reyes Bird Observatory

Sequoia Audubon Society Membership Form

Individual membership for seniors (>62)

\$15.00

and students (<25)

\$20.00

Individual membership

\$25.00

Family membership

\$

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

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Bald Eagle Viewing at Crystal Springs Lakes

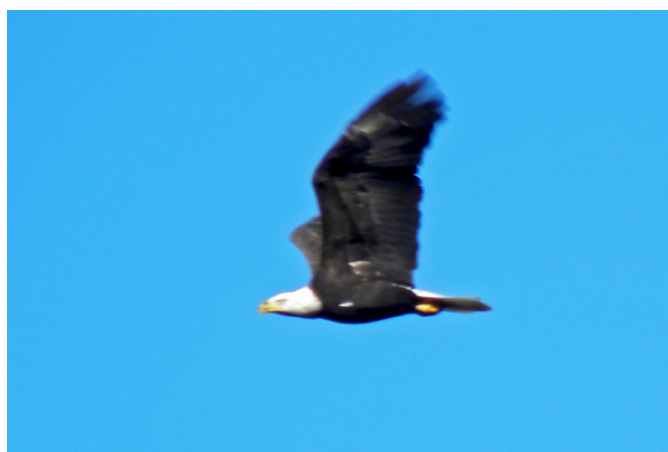
SAS will once again be hosting teams for Bald Eagle viewing, most likely as the New Year begins.

PLEASE TAKE CARE to NOT disturb the Bald Eagles or their nest, and, to REPORT to the Watershed, and/ or to Sequoia Audubon volunteers, anyone who does, or attempts to, or threatens to.

Directions: From I-280, take the Black Mountain Road, and proceed west towards Crystal Springs Watershed and the Golf Course. Take a left turn on Skyline Drive toward Crystal Springs Dam and Sawyer Camp Trail. Drive about 1.5 miles south until you see a gravel pullout at the first instant you can see the lake. It is immediately before the construction gate for Keiwi Construction, who is working on the new water system, north of Crystal Springs Road. Park on the gravel shoulder of the road.

What to look for: The Bald Eagle hosts will hopefully have already located the nest, but if you arrive at a time when there is no one there, here are the directions: Search for a large grove of Eucalyptus across the lake on the point where the old San Mateo Creek heads northwest of the grove of trees. Look for a single barren snag on the far west side of the lake, beyond the eucalyptus grove, just to

the right (north). The nest tree is the first Douglas Fir to the left of the barren snag. It is full of lichen and makes the tree appear very light green compared to the other redwoods and firs in the area. The nest is about 20-30' from the top of the tree. You can see the Eagle's head when it is on the nest, and they will occasionally stand on the rim to tend the nest.



Crystal Springs Bald Eagle, Dec. 2012

By Sarah Lenz

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.