

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

Volume 65, No. 1 January 2014 - March 2014

#### Spotlight on Mark Kudrav's Big Green Big Year By Sue Cossins

Mark Kudrav, SAS member and Pescadero resident, is in his 11th year as a teacher, naturalist, and organic gardener working as an Environmental Education Program leader of 5<sup>th</sup> graders in the San Mateo County Schools Outdoor Education Program.

2013 is his second BIG GREEN BIG YEAR, using no fossil fuels in order to see as many bird species as possible. Last time he did one was in 2011 when he saw 276 species while riding his bicycle approximately 2500 miles. The goal for 2013 was originally set at 300 species. But Mark has since revised his goal and now hopes to top the record of 318 species.

During a GBNA festival field trip on September 28<sup>th</sup> that Mark co-led, we witnessed his recording his 302nd species - a Tropical Kingbird seen from the overlook at Gazos Creek Beach. Mark joined the group by riding his bicycle along the coast from Pescadero to Pigeon Point and back. His spotting scope was stowed on the bike in his backpack.

He often likes to bird with friends in San Francisco and it takes him about four hours via Hwy 1 to bike from Pescadero. If he brings his camping gear it's a longer ride.

On November 7<sup>th</sup> with Mark's total species for the year at 316 he wrote in his blog: "Jim Royer holds the record right now. He saw an amazing 318 species in

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Mark Kudrav - Pigeon Point - Sept. 28, 2013 Photo by: Sue Cossins

#### **Monthly Meetings**

San Mateo Garden Center January

Thursday, Jan. 9th 7 pm

Coastal Baja California February

Thursday, Feb. 13th 7 pm

Future of SM Co. Shoreline

**March** 

Thursday Mar. 13th 7 pm A Century of Field IDs

#### **Upcoming Field Trips**

#### **January**

Sun. 5th Pescadero March

Wed. 8th Redwood Shores

Fri. 10<sup>th</sup> Owl Prowl

Sat. 11th Wavecrest Raptors

Sun. 12th Raptors San Benito Co.

Sat. 18th Cosumnes River Preserve

Sun. 19th Pescadero Marsh

Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> Panoche Valley

#### *February*

Sat. 1st Tracking Mammals

Sun. 2<sup>nd</sup> Pescadero Marsh

Wed. 5th Palo Alto Baylands

Sat. 8th SM Co. State Beachs

Fri. 14<sup>th</sup> 3 GBBC Mini-trips

Sun. 16th SF Botanical Garden

Sun. 16th Pescadero Marsh

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# MEETING PROGRAMS

#### Birds and Natural History of Coastal Baja California Speaker: David Wimpfheimer Thursday, January 9, 2014

The geologically isolated 800-mile-long Baja California peninsula has allowed many plant, reptile and bird species to evolve independently. This presentation will focus on the seabirds, shorebirds and other birds that winter or nest along the coasts, rich estuaries and islands that are found both in the Sea of Cortez and the ocean side of Baja California. A rich upwelling zone here provides food for one of the most diverse gatherings of fish and marine mammals on the planet. The latter will also be a subject of the presentation. The sight of thousands of dolphins rushing through waters below the vermilion canyons that tumble down to the gulf along with images of boobies, tropicbirds, albatross, and Blue, Fin, Sperm and Gray Whales have enthralled naturalist David Wimpfheimer on over twenty journeys to this magical place.

David Wimpfheimer is a professional naturalist, guide and biologist who is very passionate about our natural world. He has particular interests in birds and the natural history of the American West. Since the mid-1980s, David has shared his extensive knowledge about all aspects of the natural world with hundreds of groups. David has worked for many different organizations, including Point Reyes Field Institute, the Smithsonian Institution, Wild Wings, California Academy of Sciences, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and the Oceanic Society.



Black-throated Sparrow Photo By: David Wimpfheimer

#### The Future of the San Mateo County Shoreline Speaker: Josh Sonnenfeld, Save The Bay Thursday, February 13, 2014

For the past half-decade, agribusiness giant Cargill Inc. and luxury home developers, DMB Pacific, have aggressively worked to convince the public to support their plans to turn over as many as two square miles of the San Mateo County shoreline in Redwood City into a new city of thousands of houses. Called "Saltworks," Cargill's initial plans to fill in Redwood City's restorable salt ponds would have been the largest Bay fill development since the creation of Foster City. A regional effort led by Save The Bay stopped this initial proposal – but Cargill and their developers have continued with attempts

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BY GINNY MARSHALL AND MALIA DEFELICE

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 January are on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Walks in February are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Walks in March are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>

#### Redwood Shores and Radio Road Wednesday, Jan. 8 (second Wed.) 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

The ponds at Radio Road are productive year-round for waterbirds of all kinds. In winter, there are a large number of ducks and shorebirds that rest and feed here. This location is a favorite among bird photographers. After birding the ponds at Radio Road, we will drive to some of the other locations in Redwood Shores to look for Hooded Mergansers and Goldeneyes, perhaps even a Barrow's Goldeneye if we are lucky. Bring binoculars, camera, and a scope if you have them. This location is mostly flat and we will never be very far from the cars. No restroom is available at this location. We will meet at the parking lot for the dog park. Directions: Radio Road is located at the northeastern end of Redwood Shores Parkway. From US 101, take exit 411 to Redwood Shores Parkway and head toward the bay. In a few miles, look for the tall electrical towers just past a slough on your right. There is a sign there that says "SBSA 1400 Radio Road." Turn right at this sign; you are now on Radio Road. You come to a stop sign; in front of you are the ponds of Radio Road; to your right is the Dog Park. Turn right and you will reach the main parking lot for Radio Road. More information on the Sequoia Audubon Bird Guide: http:// birding.sequoia-audubon.org/description.php?loc=58&p=0

Leader: Donna Pomeroy dpom@comcast.net

#### Owl Prowl at Gazos Creek Friday, Jan. 10, 5:30pm

To join this field trip you must register on Eventbrite at this link: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sequoia-audubon-societys-annual-owl-prowl-tickets-9281181263">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sequoia-audubon-societys-annual-owl-prowl-tickets-9281181263</a>

To receive details of when and where we are meeting, contact trip leader, Jennifer Rycenga

Leader: Jennifer Rycenga smcbgeditor@earthlink.net 650-440-0063

#### Wavecrest Raptors & Short-Eared Owls Saturday, Jan. 11 2:30pm - Sunset

The recent purchase of a portion of the Wavecrest property by POST has come as great news, because any development of this area would impact this very unique habitat for wintering raptors. Gary Deghi will talk about the long Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> Pillar Point

March

Sun. 2<sup>nd</sup> Pescadero Marsh Wed. 5<sup>th</sup> Redwood Shores

Sun. 9<sup>9h</sup> Lloyd Lake,

**Golden Gate Park** 

Sun. 16<sup>th</sup> Pescadero Marsh Sun. 22<sup>nd</sup> Burleigh Murray

State Park

fight to save Wavecrest from developers. We expect to see Red- tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, Northern Harriers, White- tailed Kites, and American Kestrels, and then at dusk we will make a special effort to see the Short-eared Owl (a species of special concern) that winter here every year. Directions: Take Hwy 1 South from Hwy 92. Turn right (west) on Wavecrest Road. Meet at the ball field at the end of Wavecrest Road at 2:30pm PM.

**Leaders:** Gary Deghi gdeghi@h-bgroup.com and Jennifer Rycenga smcbgeditor@earthlink.net 650-440-0063

#### Raptors of San Benito County Sunday, Jan. 12, 8:30am-3:00pm

Let's explore the back roads of San Benito County in search of Golden Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks, Prairie Falcons (and whatever else we might find). Meet at Paicines Reservoir on Hwy 25 south of Hollister. Directions: From San Mateo, take Hwy 101 south to Hwy 25; follow Hwy 25 through Hollister to Paicines. Meet at Paicines Reservoir, on the right just past the junction of Hwy 25 and County Road J1, 13 miles south of Hollister. Contact leader for carpooling info.

Leader: Leslie Flint lflint@earthlink.net

# Cosumnes River Preserve, Stockton Saturday, Jan. 18, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Cosumnes River Preserve is located halfway between Stockton and Sacramento. This 1500 acre preserve has rich stands of valley oak, riparian forest, and seasonal wetlands. We will look for Ross's, Snow and White-fronted Geese, ducks, and Tundra Swans. We hope to see lots of Sandhill Cranes. Bring lunch, liquids, scopes and cameras. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Cosumnes River Visitor Center. Reservations are requested so I know who to expect. For carpooling, contact Leslie. Directions: Take Interstate 5 to the Thornton-Walnut Grove Road exit. Go east towards the Chevron gas station onto Thornton Rd, follow Thornton Road

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#### (Field Trips from Page 3)

north for about 2 miles and it will turn into Franklin Blvd. Continue north of Franklin, crossing over the Thornton-Franklin Bridge. The visitor center and parking lot are on the right just after crossing the bridge.

Leader: Leslie Flint <a href="mailto:lflint@earthlink.net">lflint@earthlink.net</a>

# **Panoche Valley**

# Saturday, Jan. 25, 8:30am – 5:00pm

Panoche Valley lies between Hwy 101 and Hwy 5 in San Benito County. Winter in Little Panoche Valley is great for raptors! Golden Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, and Prairie Falcon are all possible. We also hope to see Roadrunner, Lewis's Woodpecker, Phainopepla, Mountain Bluebird, Rufouscrowned and Vesper Sparrows. In a good year, we may find Mountain Plover, Chukar, Sage Thrasher and possibly Bald Eagle. Bring lunch and liquids and a full tank of gas as there are no gas stations between Hollister and I-5. Directions: Meet at 8:30am at Paicines Reservoir, on the right just past the junction of Hwy 25 and County Road J1, 13 miles south of Hollister. From San Mateo, take Hwy 101 south to Hwy 25; follow Hwy 25 through Hollister to Paicines.

Leaders: Gary Deghi gdeghi@h-bgroup.com 650-208-8711 and Francis Toldi ftoldi@earthlink.net 650-678-1864

### **Tracking Field Trip** Saturday, Feb. 1, 9:00am - 12:00pm

What to do when the birding is slow? Why not find out which mammals are lurking about? Unlike birds, mammals are generally very hesitant to show themselves at all, and you could easily go your whole life without knowing that weasels or foxes or, possibly, even cougars pass through your yard when you're not looking. That's where tracking comes in. Basics of species identification and tracking techniques will be covered on this field trip at Gazos Beach, the site preferred for monthly outings of the Bay Area Tracking Club. (It's a birding hotspot too!) Don't expect to see many mammals in the flesh on this half-day trip, but the methods you learn as you gaze at clear, extensive trails written in the sand may start you off on an adventure that will enable you to see many more shy animals in the future. If you find yourself intrigued, the free BATC trip takes place at the same location just one week later. Meet at the Gazos Creek Beach Access located on the west side of Hwy 1, 50 yards north of the intersection of Hwy and Gazos Creek Rd. Porta-Potties are available at the parking lot. Info for this location can be found on the SAS Birding Guide http://birding. sequoiaaudubon.org/descriptionV3.php?loc=11&p=0

Leader: Garth Harwood gharwood@hiddenvilla.org

#### **Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve** Wednesday, Feb. 5, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Meet at the Lucy Evans interpretive center at the Palo Alto Baylands for a leisurely walk where we will explore this San Francisco Bay treasure. We should see a variety of ducks and other waterbirds and we will look for wintering sparrows. Heavy rains cancel. For more information visit the Sequoia Audubon online birding guide: <a href="http://www.cityofpaloalto.">http://www.cityofpaloalto.</a> org/gov/depts/csd/parks/preserves/baylands.asp

Leader: Donna Pomeroy dpom@comcast.net

#### Francis – Venice – Dunes State Beaches Saturday, Feb 8, 8:30am to 12:00pm

We will meet at Francis State Beach and work our way north to Dunes Beach. We will be walking along the coastal trail checking the bluff top foliage for Sparrows, Towhees, Phoebes and other passerines. Overhead we'll keep an eye out for Raptors. At the "boardwalk" we will visit the beach and look for Snowy Plovers and scan the ocean for sea birds. Our journey north will take us by the two riparian areas of Pilarcitos Creek and Frenchman's Creek. We'll have some fun checking the gull flock! Heading inland we'll loop through Sweetwood Park in search of wintering warblers. The walk will be approx. 4 miles roundtrip all on flat terrain. There are 2 restrooms along the route. Wear layers as it can be cooler by the beach and warmer inland. Try street parking along Kelly Ave. or adjacent streets or pay the \$10 parking fee at Francis Beach which is good to visit any State Beach along the coast that day. Heavy rain cancels!

Leaders: Malia DeFelice and Chris Hayward malia.defelice.sas@gmail.com

#### **Three Backyard Bird Count Mini-trips** Friday, Feb. 14, 9:00am

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, just

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(Field Trips from Page 4)

west of El Camino Real. Directions can be found in the San Mateo County Birding Guide.

Leader: Don Pendleton pen55ton@yahoo.com

# San Francisco Botanical Garden Sunday, Feb 16. 8:00am

Birds and gardens go together. Visit the San Francisco Botanical Garden (formerly Strybing Arboretum) and we'll find both. Many of the garden's huge Magnolia collection should be in bloom. Directions: 280 north to San Francisco, then north on 19th Avenue. Turn right on Irving, then left on 9th Ave. After you cross Lincoln into the park you can park along the road. The entrance will be on the left.

Meet at the main entrance at 9th Ave and Lincoln at 8:00 am.

Leader: Ginny Marshall ginnybirder@sbcglobal.net

#### Pillar Point and Princeton Harbor Saturday, Feb. 22, 8:00 am – 11:30 am

Pillar Point is a hot spot for birding year-round with great habitat for a variety of waterbirds. Most of the walking will be on fairly level dirt trails, but if time permits, we may hike up onto the bluff top for a better view out to sea. Bring binoculars, camera a scope if you have them, water and snacks. A primitive restroom is available at the parking lot. Heavy rain cancels. Directions: The harbor is located just west of Hwy 1, 18 miles south of San Francisco and 4 miles north of Half Moon Bay. From Hwy 1, turn west at the stoplight at Capistrano Road and continue along the north side of the harbor to Prospect Way. Turn left onto Prospect, then a brief jog right on Broadway, to an immediate left on Harvard Avenue. Proceed through the boat yards to the end of Harvard Avenue, and then turn right onto West Point Avenue, which curves around a marshy area and heads uphill to an Air Force Radar Facility. Meet at the "West Shoreline Access" parking lot below the "Golf Ball".

More information for this location can be on the Sequoia Audubon Bird Guide: <a href="http://birding.sequoiaaudubon.org/description.php?loc=18&p=0">http://birding.sequoiaaudubon.org/description.php?loc=18&p=0</a>

Leader: Donna Pomeroy dpom@comcast.net

#### Nob Hill Pond and Redwood Shores Wednesday, Mar. 5, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Nob Hill Pond is a very productive area for a variety of ducks and other waterbirds. After we explore this area, we may have time to check out some of the other excellent birding sites in Redwood Shores. This will be an easy walk on mostly level ground. Bring scopes if you have them. Restrooms may be found in the nearby shopping center.

Directions: Take the Redwood Shores Parkway exit east from Hwy 101 and go past the shopping plaza that gives the area its name (from its anchor grocery store, Nob Hill). Turn right on Bridge Parkway. Almost immediately, take a right at Tiller Lane (there is a small city park in front of you,

named "Mariner Park"). Follow Tiller Lane to its end point, where you take a left on Spar. Follow Spar to its end, where there is a small cul-de-sac that has parking spaces for three or four vehicles (you can also park in the residential area if necessary). We will meet here at the end of Spar Lane.

Leader: Donna Pomeroy dpom@comcast.net

#### Lloyd Lake, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco Sunday, March 9, 9:00am

Lloyd Lake is one of the few places in San Francisco to see wintering ducks. Often there are Hooded Mergansers and Wood Ducks. This small lake also attracts wintering sparrows and other passerines. The first Allen's Hummingbirds of the year may be here. It's a good place for close up photography. Directions: Lloyd Lake is in Golden Gate Park on John F. Kennedy Drive, west of Park Presidio. Take the 25th St exit left from 19th Ave and make a hard left on Transverse Dr (it's almost a u-turn). Take the first right on JFK Drive and the lake is almost immediately on the right.

Leader: Robbie Fischer <u>robbie22@pacbell.net</u>

#### Burleigh Murray State Park Saturday, Mar 22, 8:30 AM – Noon

Come celebrate spring with a bird walk! Burleigh Murray State Park is a former ranch. The park's only active trail consists of the old ranch road. The habitats include mature eucalyptus groves, grassy valleys, and an extensive riparian corridor along the ranch road. It is a pleasingly birdy hike of just over a mile from the parking lot to the barn, with nearly constant activity and bird sounds. The road gains elevation quite slowly, and would be an appropriate trail for people with mild mobility issues. There are 3 bathrooms along the route. We should anticipate spring migrants including Allen's Hummingbird and Wilson's Warbler. expect include California Quail, Red-tailed and Redshouldered Hawk, Band-tailed Pigeon, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Hutton's Vireo, Bewick's and Pacific Wrens, Wrentit, Dark-eyed Junco, and finches. Directions: Burleigh Murray State Park is located on Higgins-Purisima Road in Half Moon Bay. Higgins-Purisima Road begins just off of SR1, going east where Main Street ends. Visible as a landmark, from SR1, is a local Fire Station at the corner of Main St. and Higgins Canyon Rd. The park is about 1.5 miles east on the left side of Higgins-Purisima Road.

Leaders: Malia DeFelice and Chris Hayward malia.defelice.sas@gmail.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)

#### (Big Green Year - Continued from Page 1)

2010! He set up what became an amazing blog about it too. Check it out at: greenbirding.blogspot.com It's the blog I wish I had created this year. He highlights not only birds that he's seen, but also talks about butterflies, plants, and other aspects of natural history. I consider myself a naturalist first, then a birder, so I love it."

As of press time, Mark's blog on November 22<sup>nd</sup> finds him with 317 species: "While on a sea watch two Long-tailed Ducks led the way for a line of cormorants that were making their way toward a large feeding frenzy north of Pescadero Creek.

Check out Mark's blog at: greenbigyear.blogspot.com
Some of the highlights of his year from his blog are: "October was a fantastic month. Are there any birder's out there who don't like October? So many birds on the move and it's also the month where lots of rare birds start showing up. I ended up seeing 12 new birds in October including some good luck out over the ocean. Buller's Shearwaters and Pomarine Jaegers can be birds that are easily missed in a year but I saw both in early October. During the SAS Big Sit held on October 13th, I was able to add a Sora, Palm Warbler, and Greater White-fronted Geese."

Many of you had the pleasure of meeting Mark on May 9th when Josiah Clark and he spoke about the exciting world of Green Birding at the SAS general meeting. They shared their insights in this growing birding movement of Green Big Days, Green Big Years, and multi-day bike birding adventures.

Please check the SAS website <u>www.sequoia-audubon.org</u> or Mark's blog for his year-end total. Let's hope he sets a new record!

#### (Programs Continued from Page 2)

to develop the site. Will Cargill get their way, or will the Bay Area be successful in restoring these 1,400 acres back to wetlands, as scientists have recommended?

Meanwhile, San Francisco Bay has entered an exciting new age of restoration, with tens of thousands of acres of former salt ponds, diked agricultural lands and other baylands being restored back to wetlands to benefit people and wildlife, including Bair Island in Redwood City, Ravenswood in Menlo Park, and SF 2 just south of the Dumbarton Bridge.

Join Josh Sonnenfeld, Campaign Manager with Save The Bay as he introduces us to the 25,000 shorebirds that call the Redwood City salt ponds home and discusses the long-term prospects for the restoration of the salt ponds, the San Mateo County shoreline, and all of San Francisco Bay.



Josh Sonnenfeld with Save the Bay

Save The Bay is the largest regional organization working to protect, restore and celebrate San Francisco Bay. As its leading champion since 1961, Save The Bay protects the Bay from pollution and inappropriate shoreline development, making it cleaner and healthier for people and wildlife.

Since 2010, Josh has managed Save The Bay's campaign to stop Cargill's proposed development on restorable San Francisco Bay salt ponds in Redwood City. He now manages Save The Bay's work to prevent inappropriate development throughout the 500+ square mile estuary.

#### A Century of Field Identification Speaker: Joe Morlan Thursday, March 13, 2014

Joe Morlan will present a history of bird identification starting with early pioneers in sight identification, and a personal look back at how birding and bird identification has changed over the decades. Sight identifications considered by Ludlow Griscom to be impossible in 1922 are routine today. Likewise our knowledge of bird distribution has grown dramatically since the days of Griscom and other pioneers. But what will future generations think of our own conventional wisdom when it comes to bird identification and distribution? Technology continues to advance in the fields of optics and photography. These advances have been an integral part of the rapid evolutionary changes in the way we see birds and the way future generations will see them. Join us for this entertaining and thought-provoking presentation.

Joe Morlan has long been one of the premier birders in California. He established the Northern California Bird Box and has a superb website (fog.ccsf.cc.ca.us/jmorlan/). He is co-author of "Birds of San Francisco and the Bay Area" and "Birds of Northern California." He has taught birding classes for adults through the San Francisco Unified School District. He is the winner of the American Birding Association's Ludlow Griscom Award for 2010.

# **Other Birding Activities**

(SAS does not sponsor the following activities)

#### 35th Annual Winter Wings Festival February 13-16, 2014, 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.

An outstanding team of leaders, presenters, and volunteers made the expanded 4-day format a success in 2013, and the same format will continue in 2014.

Featured speakers the 2014 festival are Bill Thompson III, Rick Sammon, Brian Sullivan, and Sharon 'Birdchick' Stiteler.

**Information:** http://www.winterwingsfest.org/

#### 18th Annual San Diego Bird Festival February 27-March 2, 2014 Marina Village Conference Center, at Mission Bay Park, San Diego

Added are many new trips, workshops and presentations, and an expanded Family Day program. A pre-Festival Baja California trip and a post-Festival Salton Sea trip will be held.

**Information:** www.sandiegoaudubon.org

Bay Area Bird Photographers is a club formed within Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. Almost-monthly programs are open to the public and feature an engaging presentation by a member or guest showcasing bird photography from around the world and close to home.

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month, September through May 7:30 to 9 PM at the Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center, 2775 Embarcadero Rd, Palo Alto.

**Information:** http://www.scvas.org/index.php



Greater Scaup, Marina Lagoon, San Mateo Photo by: Bob Cossins

# Conservation

#### SAS awarded a grant for Wintering Snowy Plover Protection

In August 2013 Audubon California, the state office of the National Audubon Society, awarded a grant in the amount of \$9,920.00 to SAS to provide symbolic fencing and educational activities in Pacifica to protect wintering habitat for the threatened Western Snowy Plover. Pacifica Shorebird Alliance and SAS will train volunteers to install the fencing, monitor the Snowy Plovers, provide beach walks to the public, and give classroom presentations to teach local school children to "share the shore" with wildlife. Educational signs will also be installed at the beach.

#### **Coffee Lovers**



Do you want some assurance that the coffee you're buying really comes from a farm that is good for birds and the environment? Play a key role in the conservation

of migratory birds, which find a sanctuary in their forestlike environment. The Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (SMBC) has developed the only 100%-organic shadegrown coffee certification. Find out what you can do to help migratory birds and promote a better environment through the "Bird Friendly®" seal of approval.

http://nationalzoo.si.edu/scbi/migratorybirds/coffee/

#### From National Audubon: How can I prevent birds from hitting my windows by mistake?

During certain times of the year, the angle of the sun can make windows turn into mirrors, reflecting the sky and vegetation making the window look like an open place to fly. Inside, hanging blinds or curtains that can be partly closed will let in light while breaking up the reflection.

Outside, hanging shiny objects in front of the window, covering the window with netting, or stringing store-bought feathers across windows may have some effect. There are decals being sold now at bird stores and online that are various wildlife images with a special coating that reflects ultraviolet light, which looks blue to birds but is clear to humans.

Anything attached to the outside needs to be spaced across the entire window to be effective. Sometimes birds hit windows as they flee from feeders when frightened. Moving feeders farther away from the window can often help in this situation. Attaching hawk-shaped decals to the inside of a window often has little effect.

# Sequoia Audubon Society Membership Form Individual membership for seniors (>62) and students (<25) Individual membership Family membership Camily membership Succession to SAS Total Mail and / or E-mail address

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John Thomas Padley April 4, 1920 - November 23, 2013



Many of you may remember John Padley – a well-liked, longtime SAS volunteer. He and his wife of 68 years, Nena, were environmentalists who enjoyed docenting at Ano Nuevo State Park, Pescadero Marsh and with the Half Moon Bay State Beach Snowy Plover Watch Program. If you would like to make a contribution in his name, his family suggests the Sempervirens Fund, an organization he supported: Sempervirens Fund at 419 South San Antonio Rd., Ste. 211, Los Altos, CA 94022-3640

The 2014 GBBC will take place Friday, February 14, through Monday, February 17.

Please join us for the 17th annual count!

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.

GBBC checklists can be accepted from anywhere in the world!

Everyone is welcome--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.

To learn more go to: <a href="http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/whycount.html">http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/whycount.html</a>

Participants tally the number of individual birds of each species they see during their count period and enter the checklists directly in **eBird** <a href="http://ebird.org/content/ebird/">http://ebird.org/content/ebird/</a>

You may want to join one or all three of the SAS Backyard Bird Count Mini-trips led by Don Pendleton on Friday Feb. 14 starting at 9:00am. (See field trip list)

# 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.