



SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

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April 2015 - June 2015

Sister Audubons: Sequoia and Panama **By Pati Rouzer**

In December 2014 Sequoia Audubon board members, Nelle Lyons and Pati Rouzer met with Rosabel Miro, Executive Director and Yenifer Diaz, Program Manager, in Panama City. Sequoia forged a sister Audubon agreement with Panama Audubon in 2014 to strengthen our understanding of and conservation work along the Pacific Flyway. Our chapter has supported Panama with a financial donation toward their wetland education program, and with this last visit, delivered a donation of used binoculars from our members.

Rosabel and Yenifer updated us on their conservation efforts in the Bay of Panama, most recently about a banding project to track migration patterns of Western Sandpipers. The country band for Central America is a gray plastic flag with black letters, along with the traditional aluminum federal band.

After our meeting Rosabel took us to one of the few assessable spots along the Bay of Panama where shorebirds could be observed. We had an exciting time scoping for banded Western Sandpipers and had several life birds both in the muddy flats and the thin line of trees behind us. We were unable to locate any of the approximately 230 banded birds among the thousands present, but hope to find some along our San Mateo Coast.

Please be on the lookout for these bands and report them to bandreports@usgs.gov, with a copy to rosabelmiro01@gmail.com and office@sequoia-audubon.org.



Nelle Lyons, Yenifer Diaz, Rosabel Miro, and Pati Rouzer
Panama



Western Sandpiper
Photo by
Bob Cossins

Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center

April

Thursday, April 9th 7 pm

eBird

May

Thursday, May 14th 7 pm

African Birds of Prey

June

Thursday, June 11th 7 pm

Extinction's Greatest Hits

Upcoming Field Trips

April

- Wed. 1st Gazos Cr. & Pigeon Pt.**
- Sun. 5th Pescadero Marsh**
- Sat. 11th Jasper Ridge**
- Sun. 12th Edgewood County Park**
- Wed. 15th Pinnacles NP**
- Sat. 18th Alpine Pond & Horseshoe Lake**
- Sun. 19th Pescadero Marsh**
- Sun. 26th Mines Road**

May

- Sat. 2nd Filoli**
- Sun. 3rd Pescadero Marsh**
- Sun. 10th Edgewood County Park**
- Wed. 13th Burleigh Murray SP**
- Sun. 17th Watershed & Pescadero Marsh**

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Sequoia Audubon Society

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www.birding.sequoia-audubon.org

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MEETING PROGRAMS

“eBird - Where Birding Meets Science”

Speaker: Brian Sullivan

Thursday, April 9, 7:00pm

Brian Sullivan is the eBird Project Leader for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and we are privileged to have Brian coming here to talk about eBird. A real-time, online checklist program, eBird has revolutionized the way the birding community reports and accesses information about birds. Launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society eBird's goal is to maximize the utility and accessibility of the vast numbers of bird observations made each year by recreational and professional bird watchers all over the globe. Millions of observations are entered into the eBird data system and these observations are shared and studied by a global community of educators, land managers, ornithologists, and conservation biologists. In time these data will become the foundation for a better understanding of bird distribution across the western hemisphere and beyond. We hope you can come learn about eBird straight from the source.

Brian Sullivan has conducted fieldwork on birds throughout North America for the past 20 years. Birding travels, photography, and field projects have taken him to Central and South America, to Antarctica, the Arctic and across North America. He has written and consulted on various books, popular, and scientific literature on North American birds, and is a co-author on The Crossley ID Guide: “Raptors”, and the forthcoming “Princeton Guide to North American Birds”. He is currently project leader for eBird (www.ebird.org) and photographic editor for the Birds of North America Online at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. He also served as photographic editor for the American Birding Association's journal “North American Birds” from 2005-2013.



Brian Sullivan

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FIELD TRIPS

BY GINNY MARSHALL AND MALIA DEFELICE

Pescadero Marsh – State Park Docent Nature Walks

The first Sunday of each month is a morning walk from 10:00 am till Noon

The third Sunday of each month is an afternoon walk from 1:00 pm till 3:00 pm

Walks in April are on the 5th and 19th

Walks in May are on the 3rd and 17th

Walks in June are on the 7th and 21st

Gazos Creek & Pigeon Point Lighthouse

Wednesday, April 1, 8:30 am -12:00 pm

Gazos Creek is prime location in the county to see and hear our summer resident woodland birds such as grosbeaks, warblers and thrushes. This lush coastal canyon, with its permanent stream and light traffic, is an excellent birding location. We will meet at the parking lot at the lighthouse and then carpool to Gazos Creek, since there is limited parking along the pullouts on Gazos Creek Road. When we return to our cars at the lighthouse, we will spend some time looking at the Pigeon Guillemots, other waterbirds, and whales. Scopes will be useful at the lighthouse. The weather at the lighthouse can be cold and windy. Bring layers. **Directions:** Take Hwy 1 south from Half Moon Bay for 20 miles. Turn right at the lighthouse and drive to the end of the road to the parking area.

Leader: Donna Pomeroy dpom@comcast.net

Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford University

Saturday, April 11, 7:50 am – half day

Trip is limited to twenty people. **E-mail Sonny to reserve a space.** Those without e-mail call (650) 814-8028. There is a fee of \$5 per person. Meet in the parking lot on the right side of Sand Hill Rd as you head west toward the Preserve (near the freeway at the intersection of Lawler Ranch Road and Sand Hill Rd.). At the parking lot people are expected to form their own carpool, as carpooling is now required to minimize the number of cars on the Preserve. Caravan with a leader from the parking area between 7:50 AM and 8:00 AM only, the gate will then be open. (DO NOT LEAVE EARLIER, AS PARKING OUTSIDE THE GATE IS NOT ALLOWED, SINCE IT POSES AN UNACCEPTABLE TRAFFIC HAZARD!) From I-280, the main gate is on the left side of the road about 2 miles West (away from the freeway) on Sand Hill Rd. Trip involves 2-3 miles of moderately strenuous walking, and goes rain or shine.

Leader: Sonny Mencher soccerquiz@yahoo.com.

Edgewood County Park

Sunday, April 12, 8:00 am - hike will last 3-4 hours

Hike through oak woodlands and natural meadows. Look

(Upcoming Field Trips from Page 1)

May Continued

Sat. 23rd Devil's Slide

June

Wed. 3rd Mori Point

Sun. 7th Pescadero Marsh

Sat. 13th San Pedro Valley Co. Pk.

Sun. 14th Edgewood County Pk.

Sun. 21st Lower Windy Hill & Pescadero Marsh

for California Thrasher, Wrentit, Oak Titmouse and Western Bluebird year round. Hike 3-5 miles with some hills.

Directions: Take 280 to Edgewood Rd. in Woodside. Go east down Edgewood to the park entrance on the right. Meet at the Nature Center.

Leader TBA. Contact: ginnybirder@sbcglobal.net

The Pinnacles National Park

Wednesday, April 15, 8:00 am– 3:00 pm - whole day trip

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. **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

Alpine Pond and Horseshoe Lake

Saturday, April 18, 8:30 am - Noon

Join Malia DeFelice and Chris Hayward and explore two birding gems. The first part of the day will commence at Alpine Lake (also called Alpine Pond). We will hike around Alpine Lake and take some side trails, exploring diverse habitats of willows, chaparral, mixed oak, madrone and conifer forest. Our moderately easy hike has some gain and loss in elevation and will start and end at Alpine Lake. From there we will carpool to Horseshoe Lake a short distance to the south and begin the second part of the day. We will hike around Horseshoe Lake and explore parts of fir knoll and the Christmas tree farm. We'll look for Ash-throated Flycatcher and Black-throated Gray Warbler. **Directions:** Meet at the Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve parking lot at the intersection of Skyline Blvd. (Hwy 35) and Alpine Rd.

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Restrooms are located at the parking lot and at the south end of Alpine Lake. Wear layers. Temps can be cool under the forest canopy and quite warm in the open grassland areas. Bring water and sunscreen.

Leaders: Malia DeFelice and Chris Hayward
malia.defelice.sas@gmail.com 650-346-2009

Mines Road

Sunday, April 26, all day road trip.

Save the date! Leader to be announced.

Contact: Ginny Marshall for details.
ginnybirder@sbcglobal.net

Filoli Estate

Saturday, May 2, 8:30 am to Noon

Filoli Estate is the 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 land. 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 Cafe 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.

Leaders: Sue James and Martha O'Neal;
Call Sue James [650-348-0315](tel:650-348-0315) to reserve your spot.

Edgewood County Park

Sunday, May 10, 8:00 am - hike will last 3-4 hours

Explore this gem of a park with Susie Hons.

See write-up for April 12th.

Leader: Susie Hons susieturtlewings@mac.com

Burleigh Murray State Park

May 13, (Second Wednesday) 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Burleigh Murray State Park is a hidden treasure on the coast. It has very low visitor usage and a very high density of breeding birds. The only trail is the mile-long, old ranch road that leads up to an historic and picturesque barn. The high number of singing birds will keep this walk at a slow pace. This is a great location to learn and practice birding by ear. Morning fog is common here, but it usually burns off and it can be warm and sunny. **Directions:** We will meet at the

lower parking lot to the Johnston House, located on Higgins-Purisima Road in Half Moon Bay. Higgins-Purisima Road begins just off of SR1, going east where Main Street ends. The Johnston House is the big white 1850s farmhouse on the hill. We will caravan to Burleigh Murray, which is 1 ½ miles up Higgins-Purisima Road from here.

Leader: Donna Pomeroy dpom@comcast.net

Watershed Walk

Sunday, May 17, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm – all day trip

We will walk about 4 miles on this fairly level ridge top in the San Francisco Watershed above Crystal Springs Lake. This is a chance to bird an area not open to the public. Contact leader to reserve space. Details on location will be provided.

Leader: Ginny Marshall ginnybirder@sbcglobal.net

Devil's Slide Trail

Saturday, May 23, 9:00 am - Noon

Devil's Slide Trail is a 1.3-mile multi-use trail, converted from a former segment of Highway 1 that gives hikers, runners, bicyclists and equestrians access to the rocky heights of Devil's Slide above the Pacific Ocean. At provided overlooks, trail users may rest on benches and gaze through observation scopes and take in the view of the rocky coastal waters below. Interpretive signs are placed at key points along the trail and describe the history, geography and the marine and avian communities that live and migrate here. We will explore this newly opened trail. Rock Wren, Peregrine Falcon and sea and land birds will be on our search list. We will stop and look at the "Murre Rock" where a successful project brought pairs of Common Murre back to nest on "the rock" as they had ceased nesting after a devastating oil spill in the 1980's. There are restrooms at the trailhead. Be prepared for wind and cool weather. If you have a scope, please bring it, otherwise, we will have scopes for viewing seabirds. **Directions:** The Devil's Slide Trail is located off of Highway 1 between Pacifica and Montara. Meet at the parking lot at the south end of the Tom Lantos Tunnel on SR1.

Leaders: Malia DeFelice and Chris Hayward
malia.defelice.sas@gmail.com 650-346-2009

Mori Point – Pacifica Birding

Wednesday, June 3, 8:30 – 11:30 am

Join us at Mori Point for fascinating birding in a changing habitat. Mori Point has been undergoing restoration by Trails Forever, including a new boardwalk, man-made ponds for Red-legged Frogs, and plantings of native vegetation – all of which is attracting birds. California Thrashers have returned

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after an absence of 30 years. **Directions:** Meet at 8:30 am at the trailhead at Bradford Way, Pacifica, and dress warmly!

Leader: Leslie Flint contact: lfint@earthlink.net

San Pedro Valley Park

Saturday, June 13, 9:00 am - Noon

San Pedro Valley County Park is a beautiful wilderness area located in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountain Range in the city of Pacifica. Expect to see or hear riparian breeders such as Black-headed Grosbeak, Swainson's Thrush, Wilson's and Orange-crowned Warblers. **Directions:** Take SR 1 to the city of Pacifica, 10 miles south of San Francisco or 12 miles north of Half Moon Bay. Turn east on Linda Mar Boulevard. Drive for about two miles, to the end of Linda Mar. Turn right on Oddstad Blvd. and make an immediate left into the Park. To park inside the park there is a \$6.00 fee. We will meet at the Visitor's Center.

Leaders: Malia DeFelice and Chris Hayward
malia.defelice.sas@gmail.com 650-346-2009

Edgewood County Park

Sunday, June 14, 8:00 am- hike will last 3-4 hours

Explore this gem of a park with Susie Hons.
See write-up for April 12th.

Leader: Susie Hons susieturtlewings@mac.com

Lower Windy Hill

Sunday, June 21, 8:00 am - 12:00

Check out Sausal Pond and hike 2-3 miles through oak woodlands. Look for Wood Ducks, Ash Throated Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and other oak woodland specialties. **Directions:** exit Sand Hill Road from 280. Go west to Windy Hill Open Space parking lot.

Leader: Ginny Marshall ginnybirder@sbcglobal.net



Bald Eagle
by
Bob Cossins

San Mateo County birders enthusiastically participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) recently held from February 13th – February 16th. Started in 1998, the GBBC was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time. This year, more than 100 birders in the county submitted an eBird checklist during the four day count period. 24 individuals submitted five or more checklists. In total, 350 checklists were submitted and 190 species recorded providing a nice snapshot of species diversity and concentration in the county over the count period.

In addition, Sequoia Audubon sponsored free field trips to some of the more popular hot spots during the GBBC. Bayfront Park (Menlo Park), Pescadero Marsh, Pillar Point, Pigeon Point and Coyote Point were covered as part of the event and checklists from these trips were submitted. Many birders submitted checklists from their feeders and/or backyards.

This year, we also encouraged the submission of checklists annotated with a green birding designation. A green birding checklist comes from a trip, backyard count or feeder watch that did not use a car or other type of motorized vehicle. Ten individuals submitted 34 checklists with the green birding designation and 117 species were recorded on these checklists.

We are looking forward to next year's GBBC and will plan a similar set of field trips and activities to encourage participation.

It's Tick Season

By Sue Cossins

From CA Dept of Public Health and CDC

Potentially life-threatening Lyme disease is caused by a bacterium and is transmitted only by the black-legged tick. Most humans are infected through the bites of immature ticks called nymphs. Nymphs are tiny (less than 2 mm) and difficult to see; they feed during the spring and summer months. Adult ticks can also transmit Lyme disease bacteria, but they are much larger and may be more likely to be discovered and removed before they have had time to transmit the bacteria—at least 24 hours. Adult ticks are most active during the cooler months of the year. Ticks can be found alongside trails where they wait at the end of a piece of grass or on logs until an animal or person brushes against them.

If you find a tick attached to your skin, you should grasp it with tweezers or a tissue as close to the skin as possible and slowly pull it off in a steady, upward motion. Wash where the tick bit you.

(Programs-Continued from page 2)

“African Birds of Prey”

Speakers: Doug and Gail Cheeseman
May 14, 7:00 pm

Doug Cheeseman will present a fast-paced program about African raptors illustrated with photographs taken while leading over 70 safaris in Tanzania and Kenya. He will talk about the ecology and behavior of raptors such as Martial, Tawny, Long-crested, Crowned, and Verreaux's Eagles, plus African Hawk Eagle, Secretary Bird, Augur Buzzard, some accipiters, falcons and several species of owls. Intriguing behavior will be discussed, such as when a Martial Eagle was too full to fly when charged by a Defassa Waterbuck – you will have to attend to find out the outcome. Doug will conclude with a few interesting behaviors of mammalian predators.

Doug and Gail Cheeseman have been leading African wildlife safaris to Tanzania and Kenya since 1978. In 1998 Doug retired from many years of teaching zoology and ecology at De Anza College to photograph and lead wildlife safaris around the world full-time. He has presented many programs to many audiences from his diverse travels around the world. He became a member of Audubon back in 1970 and continues to be active today. He is also very involved in the controversial proposed road that could slash through the Serengeti irreparably damaging this unique ecosystem.



Long-crested Eagle by Doug Cheeseman



Lappet-faced Vultures by Doug Cheeseman

“Extinction's Greatest Hits”

Speaker: Mary Ellen Hannibal
Thursday, June 11, 7:00 pm

Mary Ellen Hannibal is an award-winning environmental journalist and the author of “The Spine of the Continent”, which the Sacramento Bee called out as one of four top books to read in 2012 and Publisher's Weekly called “a gem.” Hannibal will give a photo slide presentation on “Extinction's Greatest Hits,” the subject of a forthcoming series in the New York Times, which includes solutions at our fingertips. She will highlight issues and answers in California.

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)*

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Day

As a way of thanking our active members, SAS will host a day trip to Angel Island State Park on Sunday, April 19, 2015. Participants and their guest will ride the Blue and Gold Ferry and be treated to lunch on the island. Become an active member and join us at next year's event!

Other Birding Activities

(SAS does not sponsor the following activities)

Free Spring Wildflower Walks - Edgewood County Park Every Saturday and Sunday, March 14 – June 7, 2015, 10 am – 1 pm

Edgewood's serpentine grasslands are renowned for their lush wildflower carpets and rich biodiversity. You might see dozens of species of flowers on a single walk. The walks vary according to what's in bloom – covering about 3 miles, at a moderate pace, with frequent stops.

Contact:

www.friendsofedgwood.org/springtime-wildflower-walks

20th Annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival April 15 – 21, 2015, Arcata, CA

Come celebrate the Marbled Godwit and explore the lush Redwood Coast. Observe many bird species and wildlife through a selection of field trips, lectures, workshops, and boat excursions led by experienced local guides.

Contact: www.godwitdays.org

Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival April 24 – 26, 2015, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA

Sign up for day long trips led by expert birders.

Contact: www.pointreyesbirdingfestival.org

Second Annual Spring Fling

May 6 – 9, 2015, Sierra Vista, Arizona

This festival is streamlined to only offer day and evening field trips – no lectures or free events.

Contact: www.swwings.org

40th Annual WFO Conference

June 10-14, 2015, Billings, Montana

This year's Western Field Ornithologists Conference will be held in Montana, marking the first time for the state. Field trips will visit a variety of habitats from the high mountains (Black Rosy-Finch) to the grasslands (Sprague's Pipits). One can see courting McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs in their finest plumage, along with Upland Sandpipers and Lark Buntings. History buffs will delight in viewing the Little Bighorn Battlefield where Custer saw his last Sharp-tailed Grouse.

There will be workshops on field ID of sparrows (Jon Dunn) and flycatchers (Dan Casey), natural history of owls (Denver Holt), bird sound ID (Nathan Pieplow), raptors (Steve Hoffman), and more. Friday and Saturday afternoon science sessions will update you on the most current avian research from the region and the Saturday evening banquet will feature a keynote address by Stephen Dinsmore on Mountain Plovers. Ed Harper and Nathan Pieplow will again offer their ever-popular sessions on bird ID by sight

and sound.

Registration: WFO members are able to register for our conferences at a reduced rate and have early access to registration. If you are not currently a WFO member, you can join and/or register at (<https://www.westernfieldornithologists.org/join.php>).

14th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua

June 19 – 21, 2015, Lee Vining, CA

Three days of evening presentations, workshops, field trips, art, music, food and great birding! Each year a portion of the proceeds from this festival fund a small grant that supports continuing research in the Mono Basin/Eastern Sierra.

Contact: www.birdchatauqua.org

Conservation

Egret Rookery at the Port of Redwood City

Hopefully spring of 2015 will again see a large and active nesting colony at the port.

In our effort to educate the port managers, the adjacent businesses and the public about the nesting birds in their midst, and why they are worth protecting, SAS will table at two Earth Day Fairs again this year:

The Marine Science Institute's Earth Day on the Bay, Saturday, April 18, 2015, 10 am – 5 pm

Seaport Centre Business Park Earth Day Event, Thursday, April 23, 2015, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

If you would like to volunteer for this project, please contact Sue Cossins susancossins@gmail.com

Foster City Marina Development Proposal

by Leslie Flint

On February 23, the Foster City City Council held a special meeting to review a proposal to build a boardwalk and pier along with 160 units of housing and 20,500 sq. ft of commercial space along Beach Park Blvd. Sequoia Audubon joined forces with the Committee to Complete the Refuge, Save the Bay, Baykeeper, Sierra Club, and Committee for Green Foothills to protest the Foster City Marina Center Project, which we believe would have destroyed the Foster City shell bar and associated mudflats. The standing-room-only crowd overwhelmingly opposed the project citing overcrowding of schools, traffic and overdevelopment. The Council unanimously tabled the project until all of the above issues could be studied further. Sequoia will continue to monitor this site and project.

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 _____

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A percentage of your purchase can be donated to support the work of SAS whenever you shop on Amazon. You get the same products, prices, and service and a way to support our work to protect native birds and other wildlife and their ecosystems. The only difference is that, to support SAS through Amazon Smile, you must access the site: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-6092953>. When you do, 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases will be donated to SAS. Thanks for the support -- and don't forget to tell your friends!

Board of Directors Election

The Nominating Committee is accepting names of people who are interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the coming term (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016). If you know of someone (including yourself) who is willing to dedicate time to help chart the course of Sequoia Audubon for the protection of birds and their habitats in San Mateo County please notify a current board member. The election will be held at the June 11, 2015 general meeting. Check our website for nominees. SAS members in good standing may participate in the voice vote.

Job Opportunity – SAS Administrative Assistant (Independent Contractor)

Looking for someone with good organizational and computer skills and a knowledge of birds. Working out of your home includes: basic home office duties, website support, chapter activity planning and preparation of the quarterly printed newsletter.

This is a paid position.

Time commitment is approximately 40 hours per month.

For more information contact: Ginny Marshall

ginnybirder@sbcglobal.net

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.