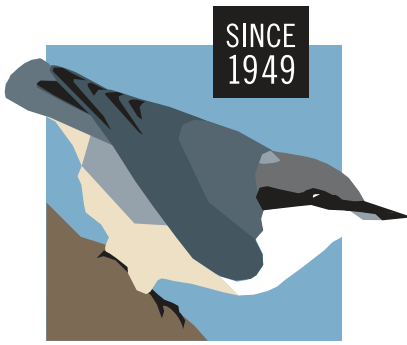




SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society, San Mateo County

*Volume 73, No. 2
April - June 2022*

SAS Conservation Update

Your conservation committee is following, commenting on and participating in several developments and concerns in our county that impact habitats, birds and other wildlife. We welcome additional help in monitoring these developments, alerting us to news reports or council actions, or submitting comments when requested. Not least, more people helping means we can track, comment on, and try to improve some of the developments in our county.

1. Menlo Park – Bedwell Bayfront Park. West Bay Sanitation District proposes to construct an “ecotone levee” in tidal Westpoint Slough. This will fill 2.2 acres of saltmarsh and 1 acre of tidal slough, affecting not only the slough but also Greco Island, a haven for Ridgway’s Rails.

2. Menlo Park – Flood County Park. The park renovation plan includes removing many trees to make room for a second soccer/playing field. We support neighborhood efforts to reduce tree removal, keep old, native oaks, and better design the park renovation. <https://floodpark.org/>

3. Pacifica – Sharp Park. Protecting endangered species, such as Red-legged Frog and San Francisco Garter Snake. Preserving this excellent habitat for migrating birds, especially vagrants.

4. Half Moon Bay – Pillar Point Bluff County Park. We supported Green Foothills and others in requesting the county Planning Commission not to permit a pilot program for off-leash dogs here, due to the proximity to protected beaches and areas where wildlife could be harassed. The Commission denied the request in early February, and it now goes to the Board of Supervisors. A similar program at Quarry Park is not contested.

5. East Palo Alto – Ravenswood Business District / 4 Corners. Several very large office developments are planned along the edge of saltmarsh. See this map, <https://bit.ly/3la3TMO>. Building up to the edge of saltmarshes will cause significant impacts to birds and wildlife, including window strikes, effects of excessive nighttime lighting, possible runoff.

6. Redwood Shores – Redwood Life office development. Plan to add 2 million square feet (sf) to an existing 1 million sf office park along Belmont Slough will have significant environmental impacts. <https://redwoodlifeevolve.com/>

7. Redwood City – There are plans a ferry terminal at the Port on Seaport Boulevard. <https://bit.ly/3q3Zwfh>

8. San Mateo County – We support the proposal to waive the entrance fee to county parks.

Help support our mission of conservation, education, and advocacy, get involved by emailing conservation@sequoia-audubon.org.

– Chris MacIntosh, Conservation Committee

Monthly Meetings

2nd Thursdays at 7:00 pm
San Mateo Garden Center
605 Parkside Way, San Mateo
Hybrid & Zoom

April 14 - Zoom

Audubon Alabama's Black Belt
Meg Ford

May 12 - Zoom

Condors
Ventana Wildlife Society

June 9 - Zoom

In Defense of Plants
Sara Scharf

Upcoming Field Trips

April

Sat., April 2 - Laurelwood Park
Tues., April 5 - Pacific Commons
Fri., April 8 - Jasper Ridge
Wed., April 13 - Pinnacles
Wed., April 20 - Windy Hill
Thurs., April 21 - Año Nuevo
Sun., April 24 - Burleigh Murray

May

Tues., May 3 - Burleigh Murray
Thurs., May 12 - Pescadero Marsh
Sat., May 21 - Charleston Slough
Sun., May 22 - Burleigh Murray
Thurs., May 26 - Pescadero Marsh

June

Wed., June 1 - Lower La Honda Creek
Open Space Preserve
Sun., June 19 - Burleigh Murray

MEETING PROGRAMS

April 14 - Zoom

Alabama Audubon's Black Belt – *Meg Ford, Black Belt Coordinator*

Alabama's Black Belt Region is a national treasure - particularly for those who love birds - with some of the most diverse forests and aquatic systems in the nation. From the woodland birds of the Talladega National Forest, to the wading birds that frequent the catfish ponds of Hale County, to the prairie-dwellers that have found new homes on rural farms - there is no shortage of birds and bird habitats to explore. And that's not to mention the Black Belt's significance in our nation's ongoing journey to equality for Black citizens, with its inclusion of iconic cities in the Civil Rights Movement like Selma, Montgomery, and Tuskegee.



Despite the numerous contributions that the citizens of the Black Belt have gifted to our country at large, many of the counties in this region are considered to be some of the poorest in the nation. Join Meg Ford, Alabama Audubon's Black Belt Coordinator, for an overview of their Black Belt Birding Initiative, which works to bring the economic and environmental benefits of bird-based ecotourism to one of the country's most economically challenged rural areas.

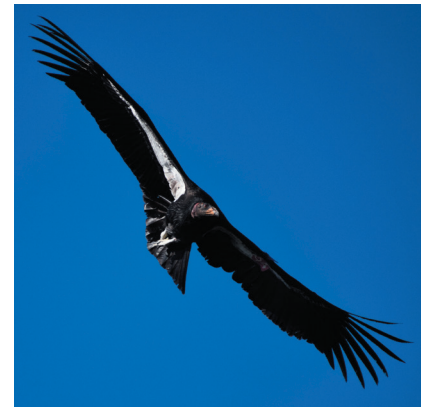
An Alabama native, Meg has worked as a musician and educator for over a decade. In 2014, her desire to learn more about the flora and fauna of her home state led her to a career in conservation, at Birmingham's Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve, McDowell Environmental Center in Winston County, and most recently as Alabama Audubon's Black Belt Coordinator in Hale County - experiences that have cemented her lifelong dedication to conservation, outreach, and community. When she's not spending time outside hiking or gardening, you can find her playing violin or enjoying a local show.

May 12 - Zoom

"The Condor Comeback" Ventana Wildlife Society

Come join us for a presentation on endangered California Condors by Ventana Wildlife Society Condor Program Biologist, Kara Fadden. Kara will share this endangered species natural history, how Ventana Wildlife Society became involved in condor recovery and why this work is so important to the recovery, as well as the latest updates on the wild flock and the hope for the future.

Kara is a Massachusetts native and began working with Ventana Wildlife Society in December of 2020. Kara graduated from Boston University in 2017 with a degree in Biology and a concentration in Ecology and Conservation Biology. In college she participated in a Tropical Ecology Program in Ecuador where she got her start. While in Ecuador she was able to study everything from bats in the Amazon Rainforest to Marine Iguanas in the Galápagos. In the spring of 2018 Kara moved to California and worked as a California Condor Monitoring Technician with USFWS. There she fell in love with Condors and the fight to help their population recover. In between working with the California Condor Recovery Program Kara has worked with Loggerhead Sea Turtles on the coast of Georgia and Black Bears in the mountains of North Carolina.



June 9 - Zoom

In Defense of Plants - *Sara Scharf*

Sara Scharf received her doctorate in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology from the University of Toronto in 2007. Her research focused on the origins and development of field guides in 18th century botany, more precisely, the coalescence of information management techniques that allow people to look things up when they do not know what those things are called. After graduating into the last recession, she worked in a variety of fields before landing in cybersecurity, though she also moonlights as an academic editor. Dr. Scharf lives in Toronto with a variety of plants, fish, and reptiles. She continues to volunteer with local ecological restoration groups and FLAP [flap.org], a charity devoted to preventing birds from dying in collisions with buildings.





Sequoia Field Trips



Saturday, April 2, 2022, Laurelwood Park, San Mateo (8:30 -11:00)

Join us for a 2-2.5-mile moderate bird walk in mixed oak woodland, chaparral, riparian, and suburban habitat. Laurelwood Park is a mixed-use neighborhood park with a children's playground, field, and picnic tables. There are packed dirt trails with moderate hills. We'll look for resident birds as well as spring migrants. Optional: After the walk, take the steep climb to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain for spectacular views.

Directions: Laurelwood Park 3471 Glendora Dr. From Hwy 92, Exit DeAnza Blvd East, DeAnza turns into Glendora. You will see the park in the valley on your right. Meet in the dirt parking lot at Glendora Dr. and Parkwood Dr.

Leader: Emily Kim. ekim56310@gmail.com. Register: <https://bit.ly/3viTpqB>

Tuesday, April 5, 2022, Pacific Commons Linear Park, Fremont (8:00 -11:00)

Join us for an approx. 2-mile bird walk on level ground bordering wetlands and grasslands. 190 species have been reported here on eBird. We will look for resident birds and winter migrants preparing to leave the area. There are no restrooms at this park.

Directions: From I-880 in Fremont, take the Auto Mall Parkway Exit heading west. Continue ~1.3m. Park in the dirt lot between the street and railroad tracks. (Coordinates 37.4956800, -121.9885690).

Leader: Don Pendleton. thyinspector@gmail.com. Register: <https://bit.ly/3taY4rX>

Friday, April 8, 2022, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Palo Alto (8:00 -11:00)

Join us on a walk through the habitats of Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, including riparian, chaparral, lake, and oak woodland areas. Stanford University's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve is in the eastern foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains, about five miles southwest of the main campus. The preserve encompasses remarkable geologic, topographic, and biotic diversity within its 1,193 acres. It provides a natural laboratory for researchers worldwide, educational experiences for students, docent-led visitors, and refuge to native plants and animals. We will cover ~4 miles on packed earth trails and roads, with mild to moderate elevation gain. There is a restroom near the parking area. This docent-led field trip is limited to 10 participants under Stanford University access requirements: signing Stanford's waiver of liability, health attestation, and proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

Directions will be emailed to participants upon approval of reservation request.

Leaders: Emily Kim and Sonny Mencher. For reservations, email sequoiafieldtrips@gmail.com.

Wednesday, April 13, 2022, Pinnacles National Park, San Benito County (8:00 - 3:00)

We will look for California condors, Canyon wren, Lawrence's goldfinch, migrating warblers, and more. Meet at the Pinnacles Campground and Visitor Center at 8:00 a.m. Entrance fee is \$30 per car unless you have a National Parks Pass. Bring lunch, liquids, and a flashlight for walking through the caves. Restrooms are available in the park.

Directions, including carpooling options will be provided to confirmed reservations. There is a maximum of 12 participants for this trip, with no additional or last-minute participants.

Leader: Leslie Flint. Request reservations by emailing lflint@earthlink.net.

Wednesday, April 20, 2022, Windy Hill Open Space Preserve (Lower Parking Lot) Portola Valley (8:00 - 11:30)

Join us for a moderately strenuous, approx. 2-mile walk on dirt trails through a diverse mix of habitats, including a small pond, which hosts Wood Ducks in some years. Primitive restrooms in the parking lot.

Directions: Windy Hill Open Space Preserve (555 Portola Valley Road, Portola Valley).

Leader: Donna Pomeroy dpom@comcast.net. Register: <https://bit.ly/3vk8Mzk>

Thursday, April 21, 2022, Año Nuevo State Park, Pescadero (8:30 - 12:00)

Join us for an easy-moderate bird walk on the coast, including some sandy beaches. We will search for birds in the grassland and trees around the parking lot, then check the freshwater pond and chaparral areas. Following the trail to the beach we'll check the bank swallow colony for nesting birds. Gulls, Cormorants, and sometimes Pigeon Guillemots are visible from shore this time of year. We will also look at the offshore island for birds and elephant seals. Año Nuevo is famous for its elephant seal colony, most active between December and March. Dress in layers. A spotting scope is helpful on this trip if you have one. Restrooms are available.

Directions: Take SR1 south from Half Moon Bay for approx. 28 miles, then you'll see the sign for Año Nuevo State Park on the west side of the highway, SR1 at New Year's Creek Rd. Meet in the main parking lot. The day-use parking permit fee is \$10. (The permit allows you to visit any other state park for the remainder of the day). Frequent state park visitors may consider purchasing a pass at www.parks.ca.gov.

Leader: Nelle Lyons: 1tigger1nl@gmail.com. Register <https://bit.ly/3BUPLos>

Sunday, April 24, 2022, Burleigh Murray State Park, Half Moon Bay (7:45 -12:00)

Join us for a leisurely 3-4 hour walk of ~3 miles in this bird-rich gem on a level, gravel, former ranch road leading to a historic barn. Many of the resident birds will be singing and thinking about nesting now, as they try to get a jump on some of the migrants which will nest here. We will pay special attention to identifying the songs of these residents and hope to spot some early migrants, while saying farewell to any lingering wintering birds that will soon depart. There are two Portapotties along the trail.

Directions: Take SR1 south from Half Moon Bay and then turn east on Higgins Canyon Rd. Meet at the lower parking lot for the Johnston House at 110 Higgins Canyon Rd (big white house on the hill). Due to limited parking we will carpool up to the park.

Leader: Ginny Marshall. ginnybirder@gmail.com. Register: <https://bit.ly/3HIV4hE>

Tuesday, May 3, 2022, Burleigh Murray State Park, Half Moon Bay (8:00 -11:00)

Join us for a leisurely 3-4 hour walk of 2-3 miles in this bird-rich gem on a level, gravel, former ranch road. The park has relatively 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 a picturesque historic barn. The high number of singing birds will keep this walk at a slow pace and is a great location to learn and practice birding by ear. There are two Portapotties along the trail.

Directions: Take SR1 south in Half Moon Bay, turn east on Higgins Canyon Rd, and proceed ~ 2.5 miles to the Park parking lot on the left.

Leader: Donna Pomeroy dpom@comcast.net. Register: <https://bit.ly/3Izr96Q>

Thursday, May 12, 2022, Water Lane and Pescadero State Nature Reserve (8:30 -12:00)

Join us for a bird walk on the eastern edge of Pescadero Marsh, where upland, riparian, and wetland habitats support nesting songbirds and, in taller trees woodpeckers and other larger birds. We will start at the parking lot and then proceed into the southeast portion of the marsh. Depending on bird activity, we may also relocate our vehicles and visit additional marsh areas. No restrooms; nearest are located at Pescadero State Beach.

Directions: Take SR1 towards Pescadero, turn east on Pescadero Creek Road. Go ~ 1.1 miles east, turn left (north) at Water Lane. Continue to the end of the road where you will see a California State Park sign and several old buildings.

Leader: Nelle Lyons: 1tigger1nl@gmail.com Register: <https://bit.ly/3M2KkYT>

Saturday, May 21, 2022, Charleston Slough for Beginning Birders, Palo Alto (8:30 - 10:30)

This is a beginner-friendly bird walk along broad, easy, level trails at Charleston Slough. The slough and Coast Casey Forebay is a hotspot for birds year-round. We will look for wading birds, pelicans, cormorants, terns, and ducks, as well as some 'little brown birds' (sparrows, wrens, and others). Bring binoculars on this 1-2 mile walk. Restroom available near the parking area.

Directions: From Hwy 101 exit 400 B San Antonio Rd North. Follow San Antonio Rd to the end, which becomes Terminal Rd. A large parking area on Terminal Rd fills up quickly on weekends. Meet in the parking area near the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve Trailhead.

Leader: Emily Kim. ekim56310@gmail.com. Register: <https://bit.ly/3BTcwsz>

Sunday, May 22, 2022, Burleigh Murray State Park, Half Moon Bay (7:45 - 12:00)

This is a leisurely 3-4 hour walk ~3 miles in this bird-rich park on a level, gravel, former ranch road leading to a historic barn. Resident birds will be singing and nesting. We will pay special attention to identifying the songs of these residents and hope to spot migrant birds moving through to areas further north or to higher elevations. There are two Portapotties along the trail. Directions: Take SR1 south from Half Moon Bay and turn east on Higgins Canyon Rd and meet at the lower parking lot for the Johnston House at 110 Higgins Canyon Road. Due to limited parking we will carpool 1.5 m up to the park.

Leader: Ginny Marshall. ginnybirder@gmail.com. Register: <https://bit.ly/3Hnec28>

Thursday, May 26, 2022, Water Lane and Pescadero State Nature Reserve (8:30 - 12:00)

Join us for a bird walk at Water Lane on the eastern edge of Pescadero Marsh, featuring mixed upland, riparian, and wetland habitats. Water Lane is a lightly used entrance to Pescadero Marsh. The parking area has vegetation supporting nesting songbirds, and the taller trees can provide habitat for woodpeckers and other larger birds. We will start birding at the parking lot and then proceed into the marsh. Depending on bird activity, we may relocate our vehicles and visit additional areas of the marsh. There are no restrooms at Water Lane but nearby at Pescadero State Beach.

Directions: Take SR1 towards Pescadero and turn east on Pescadero Creek Rd. Travel ~ 1.1 miles east on Pescadero Creek Rd and look for the Water Lane street sign on the left (north) side and turn left onto Water Lane. Continue west to the end of the road where you will see a California State Park sign and several old buildings.

Leader: Nelle Lyons: 1tigger1nl@gmail.com. Register: <https://bit.ly/353hqYk>

Wednesday June 1, 2022, Lower La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (8:00 - 11:30)

Join us for an easy, out-and-back, 2-mile walk along a level gravel road in a great birding area. Open since 2017, this new preserve provides excellent birding opportunities. We will look for breeding populations of Grasshopper Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, American Kestrel, and other grassland species. Most exciting to San Mateo County birders, it is the only reliable location for Lark Sparrow. Western Kingbird has also nested here the past couple of years. A primitive restroom is available in the parking lot. It can get warm here, so dress in layers, bring water, hat, and sunscreen.

Directions: Take SR 84 to La Honda and turn north on Sears Ranch Road (opposite Applejacks bar) and follow it to the Lower La Honda Creek Preserve parking lot at the end of the road.

Leader: Donna Pomeroy dpom@comcast.net. Register: <https://bit.ly/3M5lp7i>

Sunday, June 19, 2022, Burleigh Murray State Park, Half Moon Bay (7:45 - 12:00)

Join us for a leisurely walk of 2-3 miles in this bird-rich gem on a level, gravel, former ranch road leading to a historic barn. Year-round resident birds and summer visiting birds will be singing and nesting, and some of their young will have fledged and left the nest. We will pay special attention to identifying their songs. There are two Portapotties along the trail.

Directions: Take SR1 south from Half Moon Bay, turn east on Higgins Canyon Rd and meet at the lower parking lot for the Johnston House, 110 Higgins Canyon Rd. Due to limited parking we will carpool and caravan from the Johnston House to the park, which is 1 ½ miles further up the road.

Leader: Ginny Marshall. ginnbirder@gmail.com. Register: <https://bit.ly/3Hq6XTE>

Sequoia Audubon Society Outreach

What is Outreach?

Sequoia Audubon Society wants people, other than existing members, to know about us and our work. To do this we set up a table at various events, such as environmental fairs and community events.

Why Table?

We want to be able to explain our bird-related services, the benefits of belonging and participating. We also want to promote environmental stewardship and the joy of birds.

How do you Table? Smile and hand out our pamphlets, literature, and other goodies. We answer all manner of questions and promote our latest field trips and speakers. Sometimes, we can even sell our merchandise.

Who can Table? Any Sequoia member. It is easy and fun, and a great way to meet people, now that we are returning to in-person activities. No experience needed.

Where do we Table? Past events included the San Mateo County Fair, the California Academy of Sciences, and the Monterey Birding Festival. Upcoming opportunities are at San Jose State University, Flood County Park, and at the Coastal Wildflower Day. If you know of an upcoming event that would welcome our participation, do let us know! How can I join in the fun? outreach@sequoia-audubon.org

- Douglas Brown, Outreach Committee

OFFICERS

Acting President: Jennifer Rycenga
Vice President: Open
Secretary: Susan Stratton
Treasurer: Julie Dull

At Large: Doug Brown, Beverly Cronin, Marshall Dinowitz, John Epperson, Nelle Lyons, Chris MacIntosh, Doug Pomeroy

Consulting Biologist

Alvaro Jaramillo

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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.

Sequoia Audubon Society

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Seeking Newsletter Contributions – Articles and Photography!

Do you enjoy reading articles by “just regular birders”? How about writing a short article for this newsletter? Sequoia’s newsletter is *for* you, so why not *by* you? You don’t have to be an expert birder. If you can write about how you got into birding/ what enthalls you about it/a good day out/rarities conservation, and other areas of interest, please email Davena at office@sequoia-audubon.org. High quality resolution photos, from San Mateo County, are especially appreciated.

Shopping online more? Support SAS through Amazon Smile!

A percentage of your purchase is donated to SAS whenever you shop on Amazon using their Amazon Smile site. You get the same products, prices, and service while at the same time supporting our work! Sign up here: <http://smile-amazon.com>.



Thank you
for supporting
conservation
in San Mateo County
on Giving Tuesday!



Sequoia Audubon Society Membership Form

Senior or Student membership	\$15.00
Individual membership	\$20.00
Family membership	\$25.00
Supporter	\$100.00
Donation to SAS	\$_____
Total	\$_____

Yes, I am interested in volunteering _____

Newsletter Preference:

_____ Mail and / or _____ E-mail

E-mail address _____

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Contact us: 650.529.1454

or

office@sequoia-audubon.org

Visit our website: www.sequoia-audubon.org

Check out our Online Birding Guide:

www.birding.sequoia-audubon.org

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