



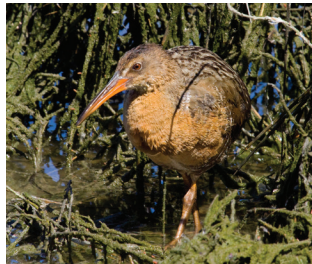
SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

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January - March 2017

California Ridgway's Rails Imperiled by *Spartina* Removal by Joseph Morlan

California Ridgway's Rail (*Rallus obsoletus obsoletus*) is a Federally listed endangered species confined to San Francisco Bay salt marshes. It was previously considered to be a race of the Clapper Rail (*Rallus crepitans*) and known formerly under the name *Rallus longirostris obsoletus*.



Ridgway's Rail photo by Donna Pomeroy

Starting in 2005, a well-intentioned program to remove non-native and hybrid *Spartina* (Cordgrass) from San Francisco Bay resulted in a decline in California Ridgway's Rails by at least 50% with particularly steep losses from 2007 to 2008. As a consequence, *Spartina* eradication at ten sites holding about 25% of the remaining Ridgway's Rails was halted in 2011, pending stabilization of rail numbers above 2010 levels. That goal has been achieved and now *Spartina* removal can resume in the remaining ten sites pending Fish and Wildlife Service approval. Unfortunately, a significant amount of recent rail increases come from the ten previously protected sites planned for destruction, using annual applications of Imazapyr, a long-lasting water soluble non-specific herbicide to eradicate *Spartina* in San Francisco Bay.

A revegetation program, started in 2012, to replace destroyed marshes with native *Spartina* is underway with the hope that rails displaced from sites slated for destruction will be accommodated at other sites. However, very few rails are using the recently restored tidal wetlands preferring to breed in the hybrid Cordgrass which is more tolerant of tidal inundation. The hybrid Cordgrass also forms natural clumps offering safe nesting sites above high tide and refuge from predators. Native Cordgrass does not provide such benefits. For this reason, marsh restoration includes constructing artificial high-tide refuge mounds planted with native *Grindelia* to provide nesting habitat and refuge for displaced Rails when the remaining ten occupied sites are gone. However, the Rails seldom use these artificial sites and the success of this untested plan is uncertain. With the original *Spartina* removal program, EIR anticipated phased marsh replacement with minimal Rail loss. Unfortunately, that mitigation plan was not followed. Instead an all-out rapid deployment effort removed 92% of hybrid and non-native Cordgrass from the Bay with limited new marsh. This was apparently done out of fear that replaced native cordgrass would hybridize with any residual non-native. The Invasive *Spartina* Project has a website at <http://www.spartina.org> with much more information.

California Ridgway's Rail once ranged from Humboldt Bay to Morro Bay but its range contracted and numbers declined rapidly during the early and mid-20th century primarily because of hunting and bay fill. Now it faces a new threat. The species was fairly common in Northern San Mateo County particularly at places like Colma Creek (SamTrans) marsh where 63 birds counted in 2005 declined to zero in 2012 when the marsh was finally destroyed. Numbers are now perilously low in Northern San Mateo County with all known sites destroyed except one. However good numbers reportedly survive in native marshes at Greco Island, Deepwater Slough (Redwood City), and Faber and Laumeister Marshes (East Palo Alto) in the southern part of the county. Nevertheless, Ridgway's Rails are on the verge of extirpation in the northern section of the peninsula while plans to eradicate marsh at the ten formerly protected sites pose an existential threat to remaining populations. Watch the Sequoia Audubon website and this newsletter for updates and actions you can take to help protect the Ridgway's Rail.

Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center
605 Parkside Way, San Mateo

January

Thursday, January 12th 7 pm
Barred and Spotted Owls
in the Western US:

The Future of Deep Forest Owls
Jack Dumbacher

February

Thursday, February 9th 7 pm
Sunda - Land of Birds, Beasts & Dragons
Bob Lewis

March

Thursday, March 9th 7 pm
Cave Creek Canyon & the Chiricahua's
Bob Power

Upcoming Field Trips

January

Wed. 4th Wunderlich Park
Sun. 8th Edgewood County Park
Sat. 21st Birding By Bike: Pescadero
Sun. 22nd Panoche Valley
Sat. 28th Gulls! Gulls! Gulls!
Sun. 29th Candlestick & Heron's Head

February

Wed. 1st Las Gallinas Ponds
Sat. 11th Raptors - San Benito County
Sun. 12th Lake Merritt Wildlife Refuge
Sun. 12th Edgewood County Park
Sat. 18th Ross Cove to Seal Cove
Sun. 19th Sparrows and their allies

March

Wed. 1st Birds, Butterflies, Wildflowers
Sat. 4th Bean Hollow Lakes
Sun. 12th Edgewood County Park
Sat. 25th Burleigh Murray SP

SAS Board Members Share Their Goals for 2017

Doug Brown - I would like to pay back the birds and the birding community for years of enjoyment. I will use my talents to increase participation by county residents and give SAS a higher level of recognition by the environmental community and the public at large.

Marshall Dinowitz - My goal is to continue to expand SAS's conservation activities to protect native birds and other wildlife and their ecosystems in San Mateo County, and to spread awareness. These activities include monitoring various projects that have potential or actual environmental impact, and to help provide relevant scientific information into the decision making process.

Rob Furrow - I'm interested in focusing on engaging people of all ages in conservation, education, advocacy, and enjoyment. To that end, I'm hoping that SAS can offer several family or youth-themed birding trips this spring and summer. In addition, I'm hoping to help organize a more intense young birder Big Day event this spring.

Susan Stratton - On the birding side, I would like to find more ways to connect with beginning birders. My birding journey began with a bird that I could not identify, which led to an inquiry, which led to a SAS field trip. I was hooked! I would like to share that gift with others like me.

On the administrative side, I would like to make membership information more accessible, better automate routine tasks, and add more direct content to the eNews.

Big SIT! and Big Ride 2016 *By Rob Furrow*

The Big SIT! and the Big Ride were Big Successes! The Big SIT! logged 95 species and The Big Ride found 117 species while raising \$4,651 in pledged donations during this annual fundraiser! THANKS TO ALL who supported, participated, and donated. Join us in 2017!

Good-bye Radio Road – for now *by Leslie Flint*

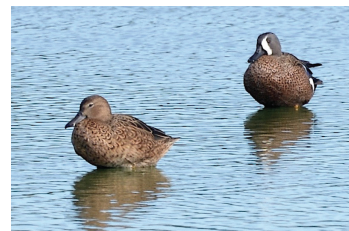
Beginning October 25, 2016, Silicon Valley Clean Water (SVCW) began draining the ponds at Radio Road. They reported to Sequoia Audubon that they needed to do more geotechnical work in advance of the construction of a new treatment facility and to meet new regulatory guidelines requiring the removal of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorous) from their wastewater prior to releasing it into SF Bay. Prior to this work, the bottom of the ponds must be dry and stable, which may take several months. Both ponds will be drained and not refilled for several years.

SVCW told us that they will create a new pond system sometime in the future in the area to the north of the existing pond with a viewing platform and a parking area.

As of this writing 11/5/16, SVCW is completing their CEQA work and they expect a draft EIR will be available for review in late 2016. You can find more information on their website: SVCW.org



Radio Road drained pond
photo by Leslie Flint



Blue-winged Teals
photo by Leslie Flint

Message from Jennifer Rycenga, President Sequoia Audubon Society

Working together, we've made Sequoia Audubon Society one of the premier local Audubon chapters in the region. As I resume a higher level of activity as Sequoia's president in 2017, there are a few areas of concentration I wanted to share with you: First, with threats from development and global climate change, we need to do more to protect our local habitats and bird life here in San Mateo county. Let's grow the Conservation Committee, and enhance environmental activism in our chapter. Second, we can be a stronger voice for conservation and birding if we have more members. Help us grow our rank. If everyone recruits one new member, we double our numbers! Share the news of all we are doing, and how much more we could do with more birders in the field and more Sequoia Audubon advocates attending local planning meetings. Third, we will advance our commitment to twenty-first century Citizen Science, with targeted field trips, eBird participation, bio-blitzes around the region, improved electronic resources for birding, and provocative programming at our monthly meetings. Make Sequoia strong as we approach our 70th anniversary in 2019! Thanks to the folks who started the ball rolling back in 1949. If we all pitch in, we can create a proud legacy too! There is no time like the present to donate, become a volunteer, get involved or take action. Please email office@sequoia-audubon.org for more information.

SAS Field Trips: Lots of birds, Lots of friends and Lots of fun! Looking ahead 2017!

By Adam Dudley, Field Trip Chair

Whether it's visiting places you've never been, seeing birds that are new, learning from others, or just having fun with friends, field trips are one of the most fun things we do as birders. SAS has a long tradition of offering a wide variety of birding field trips – to places near and far, covering a wide variety of habitats and bird species.

For 2017 we're planning to expand our field trips - to more destinations, and covering birds in more depth! We'll be trying out some new ideas over the next year and here are a few examples:

Education Series: Improve our identification expertise (e.g. sparrows, gulls, shorebirds, warblers, birding by ear) as well as birding techniques (e.g. how to seawatch/raptor watch, count birds, etc.).

Local Birding Series: Trips to less birded, unusual or difficult-to-bird areas in SM County. We'll take you to areas that are normally closed to the public, or just under-birded. Help us better understand the distribution of birds right here in our diverse county!

"Birds and.....": We don't just love birds! Join a trip leader for trips to look at birds AND other wildlife. For example, birds and butterflies, birds and mushrooms, birds and photography, etc. Let us know what you'd like to do and we'll try to arrange it!

Expanded Horizons: Trips to places further away that require overnight stays. These are designed to help SM Co birders see and experience species that are potentially exciting, not common locally, and visit birding areas that they may not have been to before. For example, Desert Birds and Migrants – Hot for birds and birders alike!

We have many more ideas, but would love to hear yours, too. Make sure to check our Facebook page for field trip reminders, reports and photographs from recent trips, and "last minute" trip additions. And please give us your feedback as to how we're doing! Contact us here: sequoiafieldtrips@gmail.com

So now that you are inspired, turn to pages 5,6 and 7 and see what Field Trips we have in store for January - March 2017. See you on the next Field Trip!



Mono Lake Field Trip photo by Adam Dudley

Bluebird Nest Box Monitoring *By Caryl Carr*

One of the first rites of spring for a group of SAS volunteers is a walk around their nest box trail, making sure nest boxes are checked, cleaned, repaired and ready for the upcoming nesting season. The California Bluebird Recovery Program began as a response to declining numbers of Western Bluebirds due to habitat loss and suburban sprawl. In 2015, 18 San Mateo county volunteers monitored 21 trails and 269 nest boxes. These volunteers are part of a 20-year-old statewide effort. Visit CBRP.org for more info.

Western Bluebird nest boxes are used not only by bluebirds, but other cavity-nesters such as, Violet-green Swallows, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Nuthatches, Oak Titmice, Tree swallows, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Nuttall's Woodpecker and House Wren.

Nest building starts mid to late March. Usually in April, Western Bluebirds start building nests of grass, straw and conifer needles, sometimes adding feathers and hair. Once built, eggs are laid. Incubation is two weeks for most species; then around three weeks, nestlings are ready to fledge. Western Bluebirds will sometimes produce a second clutch, almost immediately after the first hatchlings fledge. In general, all have fledged by mid-July.

Two volunteers deserve special recognition. John Chamberlain builds exceptional nest boxes. Not only does John generously donate his time, he also donates all the materials (the program has no funding). Chris O'Connell monitored a trail at Laurel Elementary School in Menlo Park where he patiently showed the progress from nests to eggs to chicks to Ruth Peterson's enthusiastic second grade class, hopefully inspiring young birders.



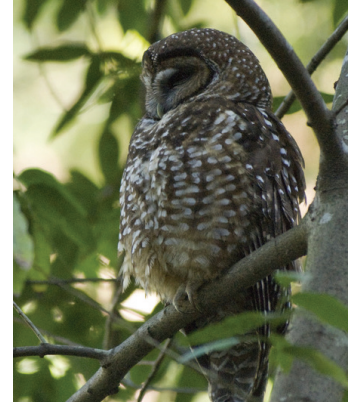
Western Bluebird chicks in nest box photo by Caryl Carr

If you are interested in nest box monitoring and/or would like to volunteer, please contact me: Caryl Carr – carylcc@gmail.com.

MEETING PROGRAMS

January 12, 2017 “Barred and Spotted Owls in the Western US: The Future of Deep Forest Owls” speaker Jack Dumbacher

In the last 50 years, Barred Owls have colonized the west-coast states. They have increased their numbers significantly in Washington, Oregon, and more recently in California. New data suggests that Barred Owls are involved in the continued decline of Northern Spotted Owls - even where habitat is in good shape and being preserved. US Fish and Wildlife is involved in a study to understand the effects of the two owls on one another and to plot the fate of the Northern Spotted Owl under a variety of scenarios. Dumbacher’s talk will discuss the current situation, the data that has been collected, and talk about management options that are being discussed to save the Spotted Owl from extinction. **Jack Dumbacher** earned his PhD at the University of Chicago, and worked as a Molecular Ecologist and Evolutionary Biologist at Smithsonian Institution before moving to the Bay Area in 2003. He is currently the Curator of Birds and Mammals at the California Academy of Sciences.



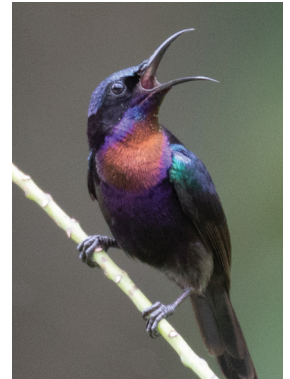
Northern Spotted Owl

February 9, 2017 “Sunda – A Land of Birds, Beasts and Dragons” speaker Bob Lewis



Komodo Dragon

20,000 years ago the lands that make up Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore were all interconnected in the area geologists call Sunda. As glaciers melted and the sea level rose, islands like Borneo, Bali and Komodo were separated from the mainland of Asia, where the Malaysian peninsula is today. Alfred Russel Wallace explored this area in the 19th century when he independently developed the concept of evolution by natural selection made famous by Darwin. While reviewing many of the avian families of the area, we’ll touch on some of the other forest creatures found here,



Copper-throated Sunbird

the importance of islands to evolution, and the impact of the palm oil industry to tropical forests. **Bob Lewis** trained as a chemist and worked for Chevron for 33 years. He’s taught birding classes in the San Francisco Bay Area for over 20 years, and is a member of Golden Gate Audubon’s Adult Education Committee. Bob loves to travel, and is an award-winning photographer, focusing on birds.

March 9, 2017 “Cave Creek Canyon and the Chiricahua’s” speaker Bob Power

Cave Creek Canyon and the Chiricahua Mountains are famed for the presence of Elegant Trogon, Red-faced Warbler, Painted Redstart, Mexican Chickadee and the beauty of the sky islands of southeastern Arizona. From our base at the charming Cave Creek Ranch, we’ll explore the varied habitats surrounded by this enchanting mountain range. Let’s join Bob for a 5-day tour in 1 hour, more or less, to seek all of the area’s specialty birds at one of North America’s premier birding destinations. **Bob Power** taught “Introduction to Birding” at Palo Alto Adult School for seven years, has been a day-leader for the GGRO’s HawkWatch program for the past 13 years, and was the lead field seminar leader for the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society for 10 years, leading and co-leading both domestic and international birding eco-tours.



Bird watching with Bob Power



Sequoia Field Trips

Wunderlich County Park - Birds & Mushrooms

Wednesday, January 4, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Winter is an excellent time to explore this forested park for wintering and resident birds and to view some of the amazing variety of fungi. Collecting mushrooms here is strictly forbidden, so we will take nothing but photographs. Leslie Flint will co-lead this walk with Donna Pomeroy and lend her enthusiasm for learning this challenging taxa. The trails can get muddy here if there has been recent rain. **Directions:** Take Interstate 280 to the Highway 84 (Woodside Rd) exit and turn west. From the town of Woodside after Woodside Rd, Highway 84 turns south: look for Bear Gulch Rd. Stay on Highway 84, and about ¼ mile past Bear Gulch, you will see the small park sign on the right. This is 1.7 miles from the Woodside Town Hall. We will meet in the parking lot. **Leaders:** Donna Pomeroy (dpom@comcast.net), Leslie Flint (lflint@earthlink.net)

Edgewood County Park

Sunday, January 8, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Explore this gem of a park while hiking 3-6 miles through oak woodlands, some hills and natural meadows. Look for California Thrasher, Wrentit, Oak Titmouse and Western Bluebird year-round. **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:** Susie Hons

Contact: susieturtlewings@mac.com

Birding by bike: raptors and rarities of Pescadero

Saturday, January 21, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

On this biking trip we'll explore areas of Cloverdale and Stage Road, looking for wintering raptors such as Peregrine Falcons, Merlins, and Ferruginous Hawks. In addition, we'll try to track down any rarities located on the Ano Nuevo CBC! 6-8 miles of biking in total. **Heavy rain cancels.** Any bike is fine. Come prepared with binoculars, water, sunscreen, warm clothes, and snacks.

Directions: We'll meet in the gravel parking lot in Pescadero at the intersection of Pescadero Creek Road and Stage Road. This is right across from the gas station, on the south side of the road. **Leader:** Rob Furrow

Contact: robertfurrow@gmail.com

Panoche Valley (RSVP required)

Sunday, January 22, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Attendance must be confirmed to the leaders.

Join Francis and Gary on a one-day trip to Panoche Valley. 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, Rufous-crowned and Vesper Sparrows. In a good year, we may find Mountain Plover, Chukar, Sage Thrasher and possibly Bald Eagle. **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. **Bring lunch and liquids and a full tank of gas. Call if you are running late or lost; heavy rain cancels.**

Leaders: Gary Deghi (gdeghe@h-bgroup.com or 650-208-8711) and Francis Toldi (ftoldi@earthlink.net or 650-638-0919)

Education Series: Gulls! Gulls! Gulls! – R.S.V.P.

Saturday, January 28, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

This field trip, the first of our new Education Series, will help you improve your understanding of the life of gulls and develop your gull identification skills!

Gulls are easy to see. but for all their ease of viewing they can be frustratingly difficult to ID. In the month of January there is a potential to see 7 species of expected gull on our coast side and the chance of something rare! Our goal is to view and learn the field marks of the common gulls we typically see at this time of year. We'll start our day at Pilarcitos Creek mouth in Half Moon Bay and may move around the coast in search of gull flocks. Bring cameras. We'll photograph the gulls we identify. Dress in layers, it can be cold and windy this time of year. **Please confirm if you intend to attend this field trip as predictions of Heavy Rain will cancel.** **Directions:** From Hwy 1 in Half Moon Bay take Kehoe Ave West. At the T-junction, turn right on Pilarcitos Ave. Drive to the northernmost end of Pilarcitos Ave and park in the residential area. **Leaders:** Chris Hayward and Malia DeFelice

Contact: malia.defelice.sas@gmail.com to R.S.V.P.

Candlestick & Heron's Head Parks

Sunday, January 29, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Between September and April, it is possible to see most of our local shorebirds on the mudflats along the entrance road and in the

protected cove north of Candlestick Point. The open water is usually good for diving ducks including Scaup, Scoters, Common Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, Red-breasted Mergansers, plus Western, Clark's, Horned, and Eared Grebes. Then we will caravan to Heron's Head, a site notable for breeding Black-necked Stilts, rare in San Francisco. **Directions:** From Hwy 101, take exit 429A toward Candlestick Park. Turn slight right onto Alana Way, left onto Harney Way and right onto Jamestown Ave. Use the main entrance by the kiosk and drive to the southern end of the parking lot. **Rain cancels. Leader:** Robbie Fischer **Contact:** robbie22@pacbell.net

Las Gallinas Ponds - San Rafael

Wednesday, February 1, 8:00 am - 11:00 am

The Las Gallinas Ponds include the treatment ponds, tidal marsh and surrounding agricultural fields at the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Reclamation Project. This is an excellent area to view a wide variety of waterfowl and other wetland birds and maybe even a chance to see one of the resident River Otters. These are level trails along a series of levees. This is a slow-paced trip, excellent for all levels of birding. A scope is useful here, if you have one, but many of the birds are close enough for great photo opportunities. **Directions:** From Highway 101 in San Rafael take the Smith Ranch Road exit, then go east on Smith Ranch toward the McInnis County Park entrance. Turn left immediately after crossing the railroad tracks, staying on Smith Ranch, and go about .5 miles to the end of the road, at the Las Gallinas Ponds parking lot. Meet in the parking lot. **Heavy rain cancels. Leader:** Donna Pomeroy **Contact:** dpom@comcast.net

Raptors of San Benito County

Saturday, February 11, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Let's explore the backroads of San Benito County in search of Golden Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks, Prairie Falcons (and whatever else we might find). Bring lunch, liquids and a scope if you have one. Meet at the Catholic Church in Tres Pinos. **Directions:** From San Mateo, take Hwy 101 south to Hwy 25; follow Hwy 25 through Hollister to the small town of Tres Pinos. The large white Catholic Church is on the right side of the road. Park in the section of the lot farthest from the church. Take advantage of bathroom facilities in Hollister before you drive to Tres Pinos. Contact leader for carpooling info. **Heavy rain cancels.**

Leader: Leslie Flint **Contact:** lflint@earthlink.net

Bird Photography, Lake Merritt Wildlife Refuge, Oakland - RSVP Required

Sunday, February 12, 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Have you ever wanted to expand your birding and wildlife passion to include photography? Or would you like to improve your eBird and Facebook photos? Bring your camera and your imagination on this outing to Lake Merritt where our leaders, two local wildlife photographers, will help you improve your skills or help you start from the beginning! A wide variety of birds can be seen and photographed at this time of the year, including many species of geese, ducks, grebes, herons, and gulls. These are perfect for photography because they provide close and obliging views. **Leaders:** Donna Pomeroy and Jane Dixon. **Directions:** Meet at the geodesic dome next to the nature center on Bellevue Avenue. **Contact:** Please contact Donna Pomeroy (dpom@comcast.net) and Jane Dixon (Jane.Dixon71@iCloud.com) for further information or if you have questions. **Heavy rain cancels. Trip is limited to 15 participants; RSVP required.**

Edgewood County Park

Sunday, February 12, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

See the Sunday, January 8th description for details. **Leader:** Susie Hons **Contact:** susieturtlewings@mac.com

Ross Cove to Seal Cove - R.S.V.P.

Saturday, February 18, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm (to coincide with low tide)

Join Malia DeFelice, Chris Hayward and Mary DeLong (Friends of Fitzgerald) as we hike the beaches from Ross Cove to Seal Cove in Moss Beach. What birds, mammals or other species will we find? Let's explore! This is roughly a 2-mile hike one way. We will plan to place cars at our Moss Beach destination to drive back to starting point or option to hike back along the bluff. Plan to wear sturdy shoes as part of the walk will be done on rocky, sometimes slippery, tide-pool type surfaces. **Please confirm if you intend to attend this field trip as predictions of Heavy Rain will cancel.** Meet-up at Mavericks parking lot. Plan for the day given to those who R.S.V.P. **Contact:** Malia DeFelice malia.defelice.sas@gmail.com

Education Series: Sparrows and Their Allies

Cascade Ranch, Coastal San Mateo County

Sunday, February 19, 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

As a group, sparrows and their allies (the "little brown jobs" or LBJ's) can be one of the more difficult families to master. With just

a little study, however, the identification details of many of the more common sparrow species can be learned fairly quickly. This field trip, the second of our new education series, will help you improve your understanding of the life of sparrows and develop your sparrow identification skills. We will consider components such as location, time of year, habitat, plumage, behavior and calls. We will also consider confusion species that look like sparrows, but which are not. While focused on LBJ's, we will also be looking for other birds of interest in this fantastic area as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count. The trip is suitable for beginner and experienced birders alike and provides good photography opportunities. **Leader:** Adam Dudley. Please contact Adam if you would like to join this trip and for exact details. **Contact:** Adam.Dudley@iCloud.com

Alum Rock Park - Birds, Butterflies & Wildflowers

Wednesday, March 1, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Alum Rock Park is located in a canyon in the Diablo Range foothills on the east side of San Jose. The target species of this trip is the Sonoran Blue Butterfly, one of the rarest butterflies in the Bay Area and one of the most beautiful species in the United States. We will look at any other birds, butterflies or spring wildflowers that we can find along the way. This is a relatively slow-paced trip along a gentle grade. We will meet in the furthest eastern parking area at the end of Alum Rock Falls Road. Parking fee is \$6 and the parking pass dispensing machine accepts credit cards. **Heavy rain cancels.** Light rain or overcast may affect our chances to see butterflies.

Directions: <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/176>

Leader: Donna Pomeroy **Contact:** dpom@comcast.net

Bean Hollow Lakes

Saturday, March 4, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

SPECIAL TRIP to Bean Hollow Lakes (Cloverdale Ranch). This field trip will explore an area under restricted access held by POST along Cloverdale Road. We will hike 2.5 miles to the Bean Hollow Lakes. (Local birders might remember this as the site of a Brown Thrasher in 2009). This is a field trip meant for discovery, part of an ongoing initiative by Sequoia Audubon to increase our knowledge of under-birded parts of the county. We don't know what we'll find, but birds like Purple Finch, Osprey, wintering raptors, and unusual waterfowl are possible. Space is limited to the first twelve people to contact the leader, Jennifer Rycenga, at this email address: smcbgeditor@earthlink.net. **Meeting place will be announced to registered participants only. bring food and liquid appropriate to that timing.**

Edgewood County Park

Sunday, March 12, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

See the Sunday, January 8th description for details. **Leader:** Susie Hons

Contact: susieturtlewings@mac.com

Burleigh Murray State Park – R.S.V.P.

Saturday, March 25, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

It's a tradition! 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 2 bathrooms along the route. We should anticipate spring migrants including Allen's Hummingbird and Wilson's Warbler. Birds to expect include California Quail, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered 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. **Please confirm if you intend to attend this field trip as predictions of Heavy Rain will cancel.** **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 **Contact:** 650-346-2009 (call if you are running late or lost) email: malia.defelice.sas@gmail.com to R.S.V.P.

Monthly Nature Walks Offered by California State Park Docents at Pescadero Marsh:

Docents lead nature walks the first Sunday of each month, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (Jan 1, Feb 5, Mar 5); and third Sunday, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm (Jan 15, Feb 19, Mar 19). Dress in layers, bring binoculars, water, wear a hat, and enjoy the marsh. Meet volunteer docents in the middle parking area for Pescadero State Beach on Highway 1. (Pescadero State Beach has three parking areas.)

Directions: From the north, the parking area for marsh walks is immediately south of the bridge, on your right. From the south, the lot is 1/4 mile past the flashing light at Pescadero Road and before you reach the bridge, on your left. **More info:** http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=26931

OFFICERS

President: Jennifer Rycenga
Vice President: Ginny Marshall
Secretary: Rob Furrow
Treasurer: Kriti Diwan

At Large: Doug Brown, Marshall
Dinowitz, Adam Dudley, Nelle Lyons,
Doug Pomeroy, Susan Stratton

Consulting Biologist

Alvaro Jaramillo

COMMITTEES

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Caryl Carr caryl@gmail.com

Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

Al Demartini al_demar@yahoo.com
Leslie Flint lfint@earthlink.net

Speakers Programs

Leslie Flint lfint@earthlink.net

Conservation

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Education Committee

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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

P.O. Box 620292
Woodside, CA
94062-0292

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Support our Chapter's Work - Donate

Please consider an extra donation to your chapter in support of the work we do to provide birding trips, monthly programs, monitoring conservation concerns around the county, education and outreach. **Thank you!**

Give a Gift Membership or in Recognition

Has someone inspired you, or just done something kind for the world or for the birds? A donation in recognition gives toward supporting our Chapter's work.

amazonsmile

Support SAS through Amazon Smile when you shop online

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** 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/94-60929053>.

We're looking for Volunteers! Get Involved! Take Action!

You can make a difference! How can you help? Join our team! For more information, email: office@sequoia-audubon.org

Make Sure Your Coffee Supports Birds – Buy Bird Friendly SMBC Certified Coffee

Does your daily coffee support bird habitat or contribute to the demise of Neotropical landscapes? If it doesn't have the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (SMBC) Bird Friendly certification seal your money does not support farming practices that support resident and migratory birds. During our monthly public meetings Sequoia proudly serves Certified Bird Friendly coffee, 100% organic and shade grown from *Birds and Beans*, *The Good Coffee* (<https://www.birdsandbeans.com>) and generously donated for each monthly meeting by Susan Rowinski.



Sequoia Audubon Society Membership Form

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

Yes, I am interested in volunteering _____

Newsletter Preference:

_____ Mail and / or _____ E-mail

E-mail address _____

P.O. Box 620292, Woodside, CA 94062-0292

Contact us: 650.529.1454

or

office@sequoia-audubon.org

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