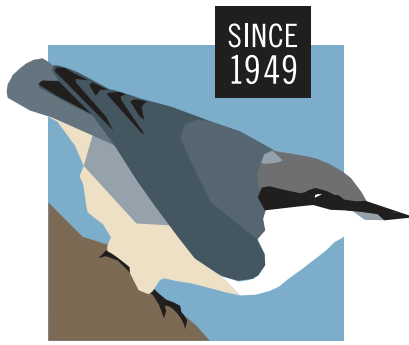




SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society, San Mateo County

*Volume 73, No. 1
January - March 2022*

Origins of the Crystal Springs Christmas Bird Count

The Crystal Springs Bird Count (CBC) is among the highlights of the yearly avian calendar for San Mateo County birders. Sequoia Audubon's website boasts "the Crystal Springs CBC is one of the top counts in the country, consistently placing in the top ten in terms of number of species seen." The count circle is based around the Crystal Springs watershed, but its 15-mile diameter encompasses the mud flats of Foster City, suburban oases and canals, the oak woodlands of the foothills, mixed redwood forests along Skyline, and into Half Moon Bay and the Pacific Ocean. The spectacular habitat diversity in this capacious bay-to-sea circle sets the table for countdown dinners stuffed with eager anticipation and gaudy total numbers. So how did we get this lucky, to inherit the most deftly designed circle in the nation? The story is a tad older than Sequoia Audubon itself!

The draftsman behind this sensational circle was a young man named Jim Rigby (1909-1953) who worked for a helicopter company as a technical illustrator. He hailed originally from Media, Pennsylvania in the Philadelphia area, where he and his older brother Ted had been admitted as Fellows of the prestigious Delaware Valley Ornithological Club (DVOC). Their passion for bird records, even before the full advent of what we now call "Community Science" (aka Citizen Science), is evident in an article on waterfowl distribution and population in their hometown of Media that they published in the DVOC journal in 1945. One of Jim's friends, an early President of Sequoia Audubon, Neil Richardson, recalled that Jim was a "birder par excellence" whose "knack of knowing where and when to locate the unusual... was uncanny" (*The Sequoia* 28:8 (April 1979):8-10).

After World War II, Jim worked for a few years in the Bay Area; here he also volunteered as a field trip leader with Santa Clara Audubon Society (SCVAS). Sometime in 1948 he "mapped out" the Crystal Springs circle, and enthusiastically brought his idea to the membership of SCVAS. Realizing that this new area "should furnish a spectacular bird count," SCVAS agreed to hold that season's Christmas Bird Count in this new San Mateo circle (SCVAS newsletter, December 1948).

Thus, the first-ever Crystal Springs CBC was held on January 2, 1949 – the same year when Sequoia Audubon would fledge its own organization! But that was all in the future when the intrepid team of twenty-three observers in seven teams headed out into a blustery cold day. The weather, combined with lack of familiarity with the territory, yielded what seems to us now to be a low count of 112 species. Among rarities, the parties tallied an overwintering Snow Goose (Blue form), Tundra Swan (then known as Whistling Swan), a Rock Wren, and a Long-tailed Duck. A number of species were clearly more abundant at that time than they are now: 25 Lark Sparrows, 2 Rufous-crowned Sparrows, 15 Horned Larks, and 6 Loggerhead Shrikes.

Jim Rigby knew that the circle had potential far beyond this first effort. In his report to National Audubon, for instance, he took care to indicate the exact percentages of broad habitats: open salt water of bay and ocean 15%, tidal salt marsh 10%, exposed mud flats 5%, lawns and shrubbery 10%, freshwater lakes 10%, chaparral-covered hillsides 15%, farm and grazing land 15%, forested canyons and ridges 10%, ocean beach 10%. "Yet despite this promise, the count would not be repeated for quite a few years. "Santa Clara Valley Audubon abandoned the Crystal Springs count" as "their hearts were not really in the project, especially when Jim returned to Pennsylvania about 1950" (*The Sequoia* 28:8 (April 1979): 8-10).

Monthly Meetings

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

January 13 - Hybrid

Birds of Protected Lands - POST
Peter Hart

February 10 - Zoom

Laura's Best Bird EVER!
Laura Erickson

March 10 - Zoom

"Ornithotherapy: Why Birding
Is Good for Us"
Holly Merker

Upcoming Field Trips

January

Sat., Jan. 8 - Bedwell Bayfront Park
Wed., Jan. 12 - Pillar Pt. Harbor
Sat., Jan. 16 - Pescadero Marsh
Thurs., Jan. 20 - Hayward Shoreline
Sat., Jan. 29 - Raptors of San Benito Co.

February

Thurs., Feb. 3 - Pescadero Beach/ Marsh
Wed., Feb. 9 - Coyote Hills
Sat., Feb. 12 - Bedwell Bayfront Park
Sat., Feb. 19 - Pillar Pt. Bluff

March

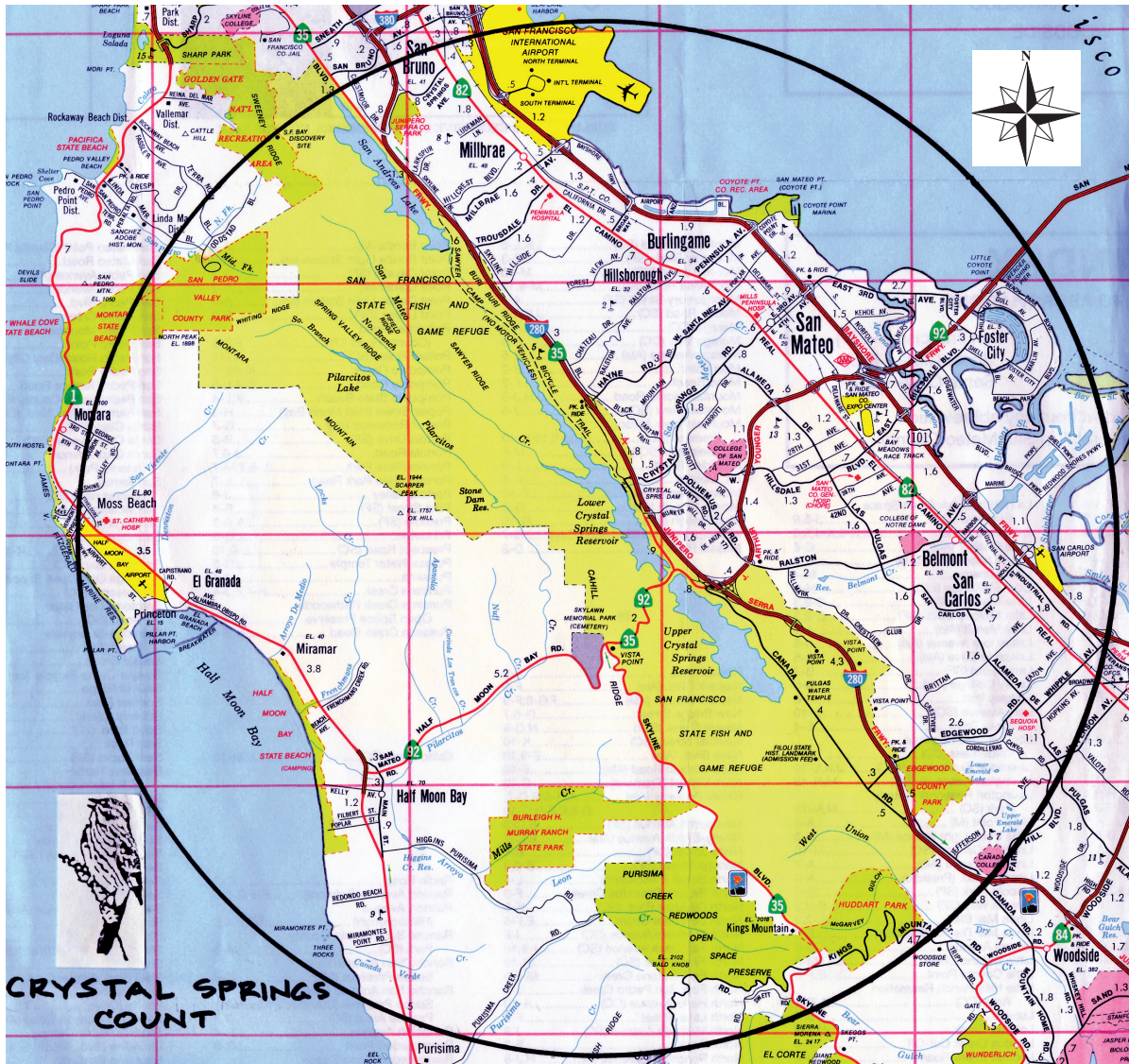
Fri., Mar. 4 - Pilarcitos Creek
Wed., Mar. 9 - Nob Hill Pond
Thurs., Mar. 17 - Francis Beach
Sun., Mar. 20 - Burleigh Murray
Sat., Mar. 26 - Olompali

(continued on page 2)

It took seven years before the second Crystal Springs CBC happened, on January 2, 1956. With the clear understanding that Jim Rigby had drawn “a dandy when he picked the Crystal Springs Christmas Count circle” (*The Sequoia* 28:8 (June 1979):9) two of Sequoia Audubon’s best birders were ready to pick up the challenge. Neil Dickinson and Jed McClellan made a bold prediction: “Though we are beginners we should be able to make a creditable showing in such a rich field” (December 1955 newsletter). They were right. The Crystal Springs CBC has been held every year since. Looking across the first fifteen years of this CBC under the auspices of Sequoia Audubon, and breaking it into five-year spans, the species count average grew from 130 to 150 to 160! Dickinson analyzed this as a “gestation time while expertise grows and accumulates and familiarity with the terrain of the circle and its potential develops” (June 1979,8).

With his fortuitous blend of birding instincts, technical draftsman’s skills, and an engineer’s attention to detail, Jim Rigby had seen the potential for a splendid CBC in San Mateo County. His tragically young demise means he did not get to see the promise develop. But “Jim’s faith in the Crystal Springs circle has been well vindicated” (*The Sequoia* 28:8 (April 1979):8-10). Some years we have reached over 200 species in this circle. New birding areas have been discovered, explored, and documented. Possible range expansions and contractions are charted, and gradual changes in regional distribution have been made trackable through this rich data set.

Give a passing thought to Jim Rigby when you participate in the count this year. His life demonstrates how sometimes when we make a small contribution to an organization like Sequoia – leading a field trip, directing a CBC – the impact can end up being broader than we dare to imagine. May the continued camaraderie, success, joys, rarities, and community-science spawned by the Crystal Springs Counts serve as an ongoing monument to Jim’s memory. – Jennifer Rycenga



MEETING PROGRAMS

January 13 - Hybrid

Birds of Protected Lands – POST's enrichment of Bay Area avifauna - *Diane and Peter Hart*

Diane and Peter Hart are adult-onset birders who slouched into birding and bird photography while winding down their professional careers. Diane as an educator and author of 20 textbooks, Peter as an Artificial Intelligence and robotics pioneer, founded or led half a dozen companies and international research centers. They have complemented their field time with volunteer service to the world of birds: Diane as past president of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, and Peter as a Board member of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

In the Summer of 2020, as the full scope and impact of COVID became apparent, Diane had the bright idea of using the enforced isolation and separation from others as an opportunity to start a new bird photography project. Her concept was to create a photographic record of the avifauna found on lands protected by POST, the Peninsula Open Space Trust.

Working as a team, they have photographed birds on more than 50 POST-protected locations and created the photo gallery Birds of Protected Lands (<https://birds.smugmug.com>). The gallery currently holds nearly 2,000 photos representing 196 species from 49 avian families. The photos are organized taxonomically by family and species, as you would find in any field guide.

Our talk will present the best-of-the-best of these photos, organized not taxonomically but as you would find species if you visited the many distinct habitats that POST has protected.



February 10 - Zoom

Laura's Best Bird EVER! - I went looking for birds and found joy, love, redemption, and more - *Laura Erickson*

Contributing editor and columnist for *BirdWatching* magazine Laura Erickson produces the long-running "For the Birds" radio program and iTunes podcast. She has received many awards, including the 2014 American Birding Association's prestigious Roger Tory Peterson Award and the 2020 Minnesota Ornithologists' Union's Thomas Sadler Roberts Memorial Award.

As an engaging storyteller, Laura's presentation promises to be mesmerizing.



March 10 - Zoom

Ornithotherapy - *Holly Merker*

Holly Merker has a background in art therapy but today employs birds and nature toward the same goals of wellbeing in her work as an environmental educator and birding guide. She's passionate about connecting young people to birds; she co-founded the Frontiers in Ornithology Symposium and has facilitated young birder groups and teen birding camps. As lead author of the book *Ornithotherapy: For Your Body, Mind, and Soul* (along with co-authors Richard Crossley and Sophie Crossley, Crossley Books 2021), she is promoting the practice of Ornithotherapy, providing workshops and programs across the US.

Learn why getting your daily dose of Ornithotherapy is not only fun but good for you! Come listen to how watching birds can bring you more than just enjoyment. Within her program, we'll delve into our connections to birds, how to practice Ornithotherapy for optimal benefits, and learn about the latest research in the power of nature for overall wellbeing.



Sequoia Audubon's Cavity Nesters Recovery Program

Last year Sequoia Audubon's Western Bluebird Recovery Program was reorganized and is now the Cavity Nesters Recovery Program. I'm Beverly Cronin, the Cavity Nesters Recovery Program coordinator, the San Mateo County Coordinator for the California Bluebird Recovery Program (CBRP), and a member of Sequoia Audubon Society's Board of Directors. I welcome all inquiries about our program. Email me at cnrp@sequoia-audubon.org. We've added a page to the Sequoia Audubon website that was created for the program. <http://www.sequoia-audubon.org/conservation-CNRP.html>

We had a very successful nesting season for 2021. Currently, there are 15 nest box monitors (myself included) that monitor over 250 nest boxes throughout San Mateo County! This nesting season, we had close to 300 Western Bluebirds that successfully fledged from their nest boxes, as well as several other cavity-nesting birds.

We have expanded our program to include other cavity-nesting birds that use different styles of nest boxes into our program. This nesting season, we added Barn Owl and American Kestrel nest boxes. In 2020 a nesting program for Purple Martins was started in collaboration with our sister chapter, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS). This monitoring is performed by Mike Azevedo and is featured in our October-December 2020 newsletter that is available on the website. http://www.sequoia-audubon.org/newsletters/Newsletter_Oct-Dec_2020.pdf

In addition to helping species survive, the birds themselves are beneficial to our local environment. Birds that use Western Bluebird nest boxes help control the insect population, while birds like Barn Owls fly over open fields, farms, and vineyards to control the rodent population. As insects and rodents are being controlled naturally by the bird's diet, landowners and farms/vineyards no longer need pesticides and rodenticides. This is a huge win as it prevents poisoning for wildlife up the food chain as well as keeping those chemicals away from our food and water supplies.

Last year, a highlight for our program was helping one of Sequoia's members, Scout Cedrik von Briel, earn his rank of Eagle Scout. He presented his journey to becoming an Eagle Scout at the November monthly meeting, including a video he made showing his experience as a nest box monitor, complete with (adorable baby bird) photos documenting his trail monitoring throughout the 2021 nesting season. He did a fantastic job monitoring his nest box trail and built Western Bluebird and Barn Owl nest boxes that will be used in the program. Congrats to Cedrik and thank you for your contribution of the new nest boxes! We look forward to helping the youth in our communities. If you know of a scout or student that would like to participate in our program, please email me.

Our program is always looking for volunteers. Volunteer opportunities include monitoring a nest box trail, building new nest boxes, and repairing existing ones. We are looking to expand our program, adding new nest boxes throughout San Mateo County. It is the yearly dedication of each monitor that makes the program successful. Thankfully, Western Bluebirds are expanding their range and are now being seen in new areas as they look for nesting territories of their own. I want to ask our members to please report any Western Bluebirds in an area of the county where you haven't seen them before or if you feel a site could be a potential candidate for a new nest box trail. We start preparing for the 2022 nesting season at the end of February. I welcome hearing from all those interested in learning about or joining our program! The dedication of each nest box monitor makes our program successful, and we thank each of you!

- Beverly Cronin, Cavity Nesters Recovery Program



Beverly Cronin, Owl Box installation at Crystal Springs Golf Course. The box was built by volunteer John Chamberlain. Dec. 2020



Sequoia Field Trips



Saturday, January 8, 2022 Bedwell Bayfront Park (10:00 – 12:00)

Join Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park and Sequoia Audubon Society for a family-and-beginner-friendly, 1-2 hour beginner/refresher bird walk. Wintering shorebirds and waterfowl will be present. Raptors, egrets and LBBs (little brown birds) can usually be seen as well. Restrooms are adjacent to parking area. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels.

Directions: From US 101 in Menlo Park take Marsh Road east (SR84 East). Then continue east on Marsh Road into Bedwell Bayfront Park when SR84 turns south and meet at the parking lot near the restrooms. (Approx. coordinates 37.487403, -122.177287)

Leader: Chris MacIntosh. chrismac@alumni.upenn.edu. Register: <https://bit.ly/32Xb6A6>

Wednesday, January 12, 2022 Pillar Point Harbor (9:00 – 12:00)

Join us to look for a variety of wintering and resident birds while walking on easy, fairly level, dirt trails. Pillar Point is a hot spot for birding year-round. We should find a variety of wintering and resident birds. 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. Scopes will be useful here, so if you have one, bring it along. A primitive restroom is available at the parking lot. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels.

Directions: The harbor is located just west of SR 1, 18 miles south of San Francisco and 4 miles north of Half Moon Bay. From SR 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, 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", popularly known as the parking lot to Mavericks, just below the radar station. (coordinates 37.501721, -122.496785).

Leader: Donna Pomeroy. dpom@comcast.net. Register: <https://bit.ly/3ojx4p2>

Sunday, January 16, 2022, Pescadero Marsh State Nature Preserve (8:00 – 12:00)

Join us for a walk on an easy dirt trail to look for wintering ducks, wading birds including the elusive rails, raptors and land birds. Pescadero Marsh Nature Preserve is both an important wintering ground and breeding area for a wide variety of birds. Sequoia Audubon Society was involved in the initial preservation of the marsh and continues to look for opportunities to partner with the California State Parks Department to protect and enhance the marsh. Bring binoculars and dress in layers. Depending on trail conditions we may walk along the newly-constructed trail along Pescadero Creek. Restrooms are available at the nearby Pescadero State Beach parking area, but not at the trip meeting parking location or in the marsh. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels.

Directions: Take SR 1 towards Pescadero. Turn east onto Pescadero Creek Road, and then turn into the dirt parking lot on the north side of the road just east of the SR 1/Pescadero Creek Road intersection. (coordinates 37.259763, -122.412122).

Leader: Ginny Marshall. ginnybirder@gmail.com. Register: <https://bit.ly/31rdWwy>

Thursday, January 20, 2022 Hayward Regional Shoreline (9:00 – 12:00)

Join us for a walk on an easy, level trail in a variety of habitats. The eucalyptus, fennel and coyote bush near the start for this walk often yield interesting land birds. The bay shoreline is home many species of wintering ducks and shorebirds, and we will time our arrival there about 2 hours before high tide in hopes of observing feeding shorebirds moving towards shore as the tide comes in. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Restrooms are available in the parking lot. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels.

Directions: We will meet at the westernmost parking area at the west end of West Winton Ave, about 0.2 mile west of 3010 West Winton Ave (coordinates 37.646450, -122.146903). West Winton Ave can be reached by going north on Clawiter Road from SR 92 in Hayward, or by going west on West Winton Ave from I-880. Additional parking is located east of the meeting area.

Leader: Don Pendleton **Co-Leader:** Donna Pomeroy. dpom@comcast.net. Register: <https://bit.ly/3Eo3yUQ>

Saturday, January 29, 2022 Raptors of San Benito County (8:30 – 3:00)

Let's explore the backroads of San Benito County in search of Golden Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks, Prairie Falcons (with other possibilities). San Benito County is a great area for wintering raptors. Bring lunch, liquids, and a scope if you have one. As parking is limited along roads during this trip, participants on this trip need to be willing to carpool with other participants (we need to limit to 4 cars total on trip route). All trip participants are required to have completed COVID 19 vaccinations. Reservations required.

Directions: Meet at the Catholic Church (7290 Airline Highway (SR 25)-coordinates 36.787133, -121.316453) in the small town of Tres Pinos, San Benito County, south of Hollister. From San Mateo, allow about 2 hours driving time, Hwy 101 south to Hwy 25; follow Hwy 25 through Hollister to Tres Pinos. The large Catholic Church is on the right. Park in the lot farthest from there. Take advantage of bathroom facilities in Hollister before you drive to Tres Pinos.

Leader: Leslie Flint. For Reservations: Doug Pomeroy, Sequoia Field Trip Coordinator: sequoiafieldtrips@gmail.com.

Thursday, February 3, 2022 Pescadero State Beach and Marsh State Nature Preserve (8:30 – 12:00)

Join us for a moderately strenuous bird walk in search of wintering and resident birds of the rocky shoreline, sandy shoreline, adjoining ocean, and in the marsh. Pescadero State Beach includes bluff areas where we will look for wintering shorebirds, and briefly check the ocean waters for grebes, loons, scoters, and perhaps find a pelagic bird wandering near shore. Then we will look for shore birds of the sandy coastline including the snowy plover (a federally threatened species). We will then head towards the Pescadero Marsh Nature Preserve and bird as much of the area as time allows. The Pescadero Marsh Nature Preserve is an important wintering ground and breeding area for a wide variety of birds. Bring binoculars, and a spotting scope could be useful if you have one. This is a moderately strenuous trip as the bluff areas are steep and uneven, and the sandy coast area requires walking on sand so have footwear you don't mind getting sandy. Restrooms are available in the Pescadero State Beach parking area, but not in the marsh portion of the walk. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels.

Directions: Take SR 1 south towards Pescadero. Go past the first (north) Pescadero State Beach parking lot, go over the SR 1 bridge over Pescadero Creek, continue approximately 0.2 miles, and turn west (right) into the second (middle) Pescadero SB parking lot and meet near the restrooms. (Approximately coordinates 37.265503, -122.412076). If you get to the third (south) Pescadero SB immediately west of Pescadero Creek Road, you have gone too far.

Leader: Nelle Lyons. nelle.lyons@parks.ca.gov. Register: <https://bit.ly/3dy3pm5>

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 Coyote Hills Regional Park, Fremont (9:00 – 12:00)

Join us to look for water and land birds along boardwalks and easy trails. Coyote Hills Regional Park in Fremont has a great mix of habitats including freshwater marsh, brackish marsh, and grassland where we will look for wintering and resident birds. Several restrooms are available at the park. There is a \$5 per vehicle day use fee. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels.

Directions: The park is located at 8000 Patterson Ranch Road, Fremont. Meet at the parking area near visitor center.

Leader: Donna Pomeroy. dpom@comcast.net. Register: <https://bit.ly/3ojN9uN>

Saturday, February 12, 2022 Bedwell Bayfront Park (10:00 – 12:00)

Join us for a family and beginner-friendly, 1-2 hour beginner/refresher bird walk. Wintering shorebirds and waterfowl will be present. Raptors, egrets and LBBs (little brown birds) can usually be seen as well. Restrooms are in the parking area. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels.

Directions: From US 101 in Menlo Park take Marsh Road east (SR84 East). Then continue east on Marsh Road into Bedwell Bayfront Park when SR84 turns south and meet at the parking lot near the restrooms. (Approx. coordinates 37.487403, -122.177287)

Leader: Doug Brown. dduggy3@yahoo.com. Register: <https://bit.ly/3GgyGpT>

Saturday, February 19, 2022 Pillar Point Bluff County Park (8:00 – 11:30)

Join us for a bird walk on a moderate dirt loop trail with a short but steep descent to look for wintering and resident birds. This small County Park has only been open since 2011. It has sweeping views of both the agricultural land and the ocean, with an uncrowded trail system. There is a nice mix of birds here including resident California Thrashers. There is a restroom in the parking lot. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels.

Directions: Meet at the Pillar Point Bluff parking lot on Airport Street, across from the Half Moon Bay airport on the west side. (Coordinates: 37.51177, -122.50117)

Leader: Donna Pomeroy. dpom@comcast.net. Register: <https://bit.ly/3IiN56x>

Friday, March 4, 2022 Pilarcitos Creek Mouth and Coastal Beaches (9:00 – 12:00)

Gulls, gulls, gulls! Join us for a moderately strenuous walk on sand beaches and coastal bluffs to practice our gull identification skills. Gulls are easy to see. For the most part, they sit there right in front of you. But for all their ease of viewing, their variety of plumages can sometimes make identification overwhelming. In the month of March there is a potential to see 7 species of expected gulls on our San Mateo coastside and the chance of something rare! Our goal is to view and learn the field marks of the common gulls we expect to see at this time of year. Bring binoculars, cameras are recommended if you want to keep photographic examples of the gulls we identify. Spotting scopes can be useful, but we expect to have one or more available if you do not want to carry one. Wear footwear you don't mind getting sandy, and bring rubber boots if you have them in case we need to cross several inches of water to get to a gull flock during the trip. Dress in layers, it can be cold and windy this time of year. Restrooms will be periodically available at parking areas near the beaches. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels.

Directions: From SR 1 in Half Moon Bay take Kehoe Ave west to the T-intersection with Pilarcitos Ave. Turn north (right) and proceed to the intersection of Pilarcitos and Wave Avenues. Park either on the dirt parking area just north of Wave Ave or on the adjoining streets (approximate coordinates 37.477785, -122.446624). Depending on where we find gulls we may also visit nearby state beaches which have a \$10 day use fee, that is good for all local state beaches all day. Frequent State Park visitors may consider purchasing a pass: www.parks.ca.gov.

Leaders: Malia DeFelice and Chris Hayward. maliakai@coastside.net. Register: <https://bit.ly/31tKo1r>

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 Nob Hill Pond and Redwood Shores (9:00 – 12:00)

Join us for an easy walk on mostly level ground to an excellent site to view a variety of ducks and other waterbirds. Time permitting, we may check some other birding sites nearby. Bring spotting scopes if you have them. Restrooms are available in the nearby shopping center. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels.

Directions: From US 101 in San Carlos, take the Redwood Shores Parkway exit east from Hwy 101, past the Nob Hill shopping plaza, turn right on Bridge Parkway, then almost immediately turn right at Tiller Lane. Follow Tiller Lane, take a left on Spar Drive to the cul-de-sac where we will meet. Park nearby if necessary. (Coordinates: 37.52302, -122.24819).

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

Thursday, March 17, 2022 Francis Beach (8:30 – 11:00)

Join us for an easy, wheelchair-accessible birding field trip along the Coastal Trail, north from the Visitor Center at Francis Beach to Dunes Beach and back. We will look for resident birds and winter visitors. Depending on participant interests and abilities, we may also go out on the beach to look at shorebirds, gulls, and birds on or flying over the ocean. Plan layers as cool temps and morning fog can change to sunshine and moderate breeze, and wear shoes you don't mind getting sandy if you want to go on the beach. There are several restrooms on the route. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels.

Directions: From SR1 in Half Moon Bay take Kelly Avenue west to the end of the road and meet at the Half Moon Bay State Beach Visitor Center, 95 Kelly Avenue. The daily permit fee is \$10.00 and can be used to visit any other local state park the remainder of the day. Frequent State Park visitors may want to buy an annual or special state park pass. Visit www.parks.ca.gov

Leader: Nelle Lyons. nelle.lyons@parks.ca.gov. Register: <https://bit.ly/3rzJY10>

Sunday, March 20, 2022 Burleigh Murray State Park (8:00-12:00)

Join us for a leisurely 3-4 hour walk of 2-3 miles in this bird-rich gem on a level gravel ranch road leading to the 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, as well as hoping to spot some early migrants, while saying farewell to wintering birds which will soon depart for breeding areas further north or at higher elevations. Pit toilets are available at several locations along the trail. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels.

Directions: Take SR1 south from Half Moon Bay and then turn east on Higgins Canyon Road and meet at the lower parking lot for the Johnston House at 110 Higgins Canyon Road. (coordinates 37.451099, -122.423599). Due to limited parking we will carpool and caravan from the Johnston House to Burleigh Murray, which is 1 ½ miles further up Higgins Canyon Road.

Leader: Ginny Marshall. ginnybirder@gmail.com. Register: <https://bit.ly/3psz51s>

Saturday, March 26, 2022 Olompali State Historic Park, Novato (9:00 – 12:00)

We'll walk on level trails in oak woodlands as we look for resident birds and early spring migrants. We will also look for wintering birds preparing to migrate north, and potential early returning spring migrants such as Hooded Orioles, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, and maybe Black-throated Gray Warbler. Pacific Wren is also possible. At the park access road, the park entry fee is \$8.00 cash only – exact change required. The day use permit can be used to visit other local state parks for the remainder of the day. Consider purchasing a multi-use day pass at: www.parks.ca.gov. Rain or AQI over 150 cancels.

Leader: Rich Cimino. yellowbilledtours@gmail.com Register: <https://bit.ly/3EyRmjW>



September 25, 2021 First Field Trip at Pillar Point Harbor (*in almost 2 years*)

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

COMMITTEES

Cavity Nesters Recovery Program

Beverly Cronin cnrp@sequoia-audubon.org

Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

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

Speakers Programs

Jennifer Rycenga smcbgeditor@earthlink.net

Conservation

Marshall Dinowitz marshall2003@comcast.net

Education

Nelle Lyons tigger1nl@gmail.com

Field Trips

Doug Pomeroy sequoiafieldtrips@gmail.com

Hospitality

Laurie Graham greylag64@gmail.com

Membership Database

Susan Stratton needles@sequoia-audubon.org

Newsletter Editor

Davena Gentry office@sequoia-audubon.org

Administrative Assistant

Davena Gentry davena@sequoia-audubon.org

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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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 _____

8 SAS Newsletter January - March 2022

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

Contact us: 650.529.1454

or

office@sequoia-audubon.org

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