



SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society, San Mateo County

*Volume 74, No. 1
January - March 2023*

Youth Scholarships for Birding Camp

Sequoia Audubon was able to resume sending youth to the American Birding Association youth birding camps in summer of 2022. One of the recipients who was selected to attend in 2020, when activities were put on hold, attended Camp Colorado last summer. She is sharing her story below and will be a part of our February meeting program.

Young Birder Camps give youth who are already avid birders a chance to make connections with other young people who are birders like themselves. Some of the youth who attend are just getting interested in birds and birding so the camp opens up an awareness that might lead to future studies or careers. Whether career potential or life-long community scientists, the camps create bird advocates who will be more in tune with the conservation needs for birds and their habitats.

These scholarships provide opportunities for the individuals but the impact for our organization is noticeable, too. I was fortunate to receive a scholarship in memory of park ranger Patricia Scully to attend an Audubon camp for educators many years ago. Since then, I have learned that at least three other active members of Sequoia Audubon received either youth or educator scholarships in the past. Scholarships build future advocates and active members.

Sequoia Audubon will be offering two new scholarships for the 2023 Camp Colorado. Youth, ages 13 to 17 years may submit applications; the deadline is February 28, 2023. Application information can be found on the SAS website. If you would like to support sending youth from San Mateo County to birding camp or a birding symposium, please donate to Sequoia Audubon and specify youth. - *Nelle Lyons*, Board Member

My name is Ava Normant, I have had a great love of birds since I was young. Living on the coast I have countless opportunities to view different bird species and I've rescued a few over the years. I was encouraged to enter Audubon's essay contest after I rescued a Harris's Hawk that had fled its handler. I was awarded the scholarship to attend ABA's Camp Colorado and it was absolutely amazing! It was one of the most memorable experiences of my life. I was able to learn so much more about ornithology and careers I may be able to pursue in the future. I learned about the nature that grows in different terrains of the Rocky Mountains, I photographed and journaled many of the plants and birds that crossed my path. The best part about camp was learning about the many birds in the Rockies and the Pawnee Grasslands. I also met people my age who share the same interest in birds as I do; I finally felt like I found "my people." It was so much fun spending time and learning with these new friends of mine, we came from all over the country and each of us had something to share with each other about different birds from all of our regions. We all stay in touch and talk about the birds that we see daily and share photographs we take. While at camp I got to see many different species and subspecies of birds I have never seen before. Some of my favorite sightings were of the American Dippers, Golden Eagles, Williamson's Sapsuckers, White-tailed Ptarmigans, and Burrowing Owls. One of the coolest facts I took back from camp is that the Ptarmigans burrow in the snow during the winter! We also participated in a bird banding seminar where we learned how to band and release birds. We were able to tour the Taylor Lab at the University of Colorado. Every evening after birding we would have seminars discussing various internships that can keep us active in birding while in college and beyond. It gave me hope that I can continue my passion in the future. None of this would have been possible without the Sequoia Audubon chapter's generous donations and ABA. Thank you so much!



*Left:
Ava Normant releasing a Savannah
Sparrow. Photo by Jennie Duberstein*

*Right:
Camp Colorado observes a White-tailed
Ptarmigan and chicks in the Tundra. Photo
by Jennie Duberstein*



Monthly Meetings

2nd Thursdays at 7:00 pm
San Mateo Garden Center
And/or Zoom
605 Parkside Way, San Mateo

January 12 - Zoom

**Kinship: Seabirds &
the Human Connection**
Sea McKeon, PhD, ABC

February 9 - Zoom

Scoping Out Tomorrow
Jennie Duberstein

March 9 - TBD

MEETING PROGRAMS

January 12 – Zoom

Kinship: Seabirds & the Human Connection to the Ocean - Sea McKeon, PhD

Sea, with American Bird Conservancy, will speak about using ecological and cultural connections between humans and seabirds to inspire seabird conservation throughout the Western Hemisphere. Sea is a biodiversity scientist and natural historian focused on the conservation of marine ecosystems. An avid and enthusiastic conservationist and science communicator, he has participated in expeditions to remote reaches of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian ocean basins investigating the response of global diversity to environmental challenges. Sea serves as one of the hosts of “The Naturalist Podcast” (<http://www.naturalistpodcast.com>) as

moderator of the United Nations Science Summit panel “Knowing and Protecting Life on Earth Begins with Natural History and Science Innovation,” and as part of the moderation team at “The Naturalists” Facebook Group.



February 9 – Zoom

Scoping Out Tomorrow: A vision for helping young people make birds a permanent part of their lives

Jennie Duberstein will share her 25+ year history working with young birders, discuss opportunities for young people available through the American Birding Association, and talk about how these national-level programs can have local-level impacts, both for young birders and for their communities.

Jennie Duberstein volunteers her time as the ABA’s Young Birder Liaison and Camp Colorado Director, helping connect young birders with opportunities to engage in the birding and conservation world and with each other. Jennie lives in Tucson, Arizona, where her “day job” is coordinating the Sonoran Joint Venture, a transnational bird conservation partnership to conserve the unique birds and habitats of the southwest U.S. and northwest Mexico.



March 9 – Program being developed

Update from the Conservation Committee

Burlingame: Our awareness-raising efforts brought about Bird-Safe Building requirements being added to their general plan. A huge win for the committee and birds!

Redwood City and Menlo Park: We are continuing to urge cities to incorporate bird-safe design in all developments. Harbor View EIR was amended by RWC Planning Commission to require this.

The “Light at Night: A Glowing Hazard” symposium, which we supported, was excellent. See the recording at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JvuNpsiAhw> .

SAS’ upcoming new website: stay tuned for an announcement about this. We’re designing the Conservation page to make it easy to see what projects your conservation committee is working on. If you know of something missing, please notify us. We’re working to keep up with new developments throughout San Mateo county. If you can help in your community let us know.



Sequoia Field Trips



Sunday, January 8, Sunrise Drive, Woodside (8:30-11:00)

We will look for birds in an area of willows, oak, and buckeye trees along a small creek and in second-growth redwoods. We are likely to see year-round resident birds and winter visitors. Our ~2.5 mile walk will take us by tributaries of Alambique Creek to a historic logging bridge. Our route has paved or unpaved roads of slight to moderate grade. There are no facilities at the parking area but a pit toilet about 1/3 of the way along the walk. Directions: Take Hwy 84 (La Honda Rd) headed west from I-280 to Skywood Way, then turn right onto Sunrise Dr and park near 100 Sunrise Dr. Heavy rain cancels.

Leader: Christin New, new.a.christin@gmail.com Register: <http://bit.ly/3i2Ytec>

Saturday, January 14, Palo Alto Baylands Beginner/Family trip (9:00 – 11:00)

Meet at the Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center, 2775 Embarcadero Rd. for a leisurely walk on level gravel trails where we will explore this San Francisco Bay treasure. We should see a variety of waterbirds, and I look for wintering sparrows. Rain cancels.

Leader: JR Blair, jrbclair20@gmail.com. Register: <http://bit.ly/3VwxS7X>

Monday, January 16, Pillar Point Harbor, Half Moon Bay (8:00-11:00)

This is a hot spot for birding year-round. We should find a variety of resident and wintering birds. Most of the walk will be on mostly level dirt trail with some sand. A scope will be helpful here. A primitive restroom is available at the parking lot. Directions: From CA 1, turn west at the stoplight at Capistrano Rd and continue along the harbor's north side to Prospect Way. Turn left onto Prospect, then a brief jog right on Broadway, to an immediate left on Harvard Ave. Proceed through the boat yards to the end of Harvard Ave, then turn right onto West Point Ave, which curves around the marsh and heads uphill. Meet at the "West Shoreline Access," popularly known as the parking lot to Mavericks, just below the radar station "golf ball" Rain cancels.

Leader: Donna Pomeroy, dpom@comcast.net. Register: <http://bit.ly/3u5yYLW>

Thursday, January 19, Filoli Historic House and Garden, Woodside (9:30-12:00).

Join us for a ~2.5 mile moderate bird walk on the Filoli Gardens and Estate trail in mixed oak, redwood, madrone woodlands and a riparian corridor. The paths are either flat or slightly inclined. Restrooms are available. We may see as many as 50 bird species, 33 of which are year-round residents. Directions: 86 Canada Road, From Highway 280, exit on Edgewood Rd and head west. At the T-intersection, turn right onto Canada Rd. Entrance is a ½ mile on the left. Continue to the parking lot and park on the left side of the lot under the oaks.

Leader: Kimberlie Moutoux: kimberliemoutoux@gmail.com to reserve your space for this walk before you purchase your Filoli ticket at <https://filoli.org>. Tickets are \$25/ adult, \$22/ senior, \$20/ student, teacher, military, and free for members. Explore the historic house and grounds after the bird walk. Rain does not cancel.

Thursday, January 26, Wilder Ranch State Park, Santa Cruz (8:30-12:00)

Join us for a ~2.5 mile mostly level walk through a variety of habitats including Douglas-firs and coast redwoods while coastal prairie covers much of the flatter terrain. Drier areas include oak woodland, knobcone pines, and manzanitas. These areas contain a variety of resident and wintering bird species. The parking area has restrooms. Entrance fee \$10. Directions: Wilder Ranch SP is located west of SR 1, north of Santa Cruz. We will meet in the day use parking lot at 1842 Coast Road.

Leader: Nelle Lyons ltigger1nl@gmail.com. Rain cancels Register: <https://bit.ly/3gQWXMg>

Saturday, January 28, Raptors of San Benito County, Tres Pinos, (8:30-3:00)

Let's explore the backroads of San Benito County in search of Golden Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks, and Prairie Falcons. San Benito County is an excellent area for wintering raptors. Bring lunch, liquids, and a scope if you have one. Since parking is limited, participants on this trip must be willing to carpool with other participants from Tres Pinos (we are limited to 4 cars on the trip route). All participants must have the most current COVID-19 booster vaccination 2 weeks prior. Directions: Meet at 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. Take Hwy 101 south to Hwy 25, continue through Hollister to Tres Pinos. The large Catholic church is on the right. Park in the lot farthest from the church. Take advantage of bathroom facilities in Hollister before you drive to Tres Pinos.

Leader: Leslie Flint. Register by emailing: lflint@earthlink.net

Saturday, February 11, Charleston Slough for Beginners, Palo Alto (8:30 – 11:00)

This is a beginner and family-friendly 1-2 mile bird walk along easy level trails at Charleston Slough. The slough and Coast Casey Forebay are a hotspot for birds year-round. We will look for shorebirds, ducks, waterfowl, and some little brown birds (sparrows, wrens, etc.) Restroom available near the parking area. Directions; from US 101 exit 400 B San Antonio Rd North. Follow San Antonio Rd to the end, which becomes Terminal Rd where a large parking area fills up quickly on weekends. Meet near the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve Trailhead.

Leader: Emily Kim, ekim56310@gmail.com. Rain cancels. Register: <http://bit.ly/3XvKLkh>

Sunday, February 12, Sunrise Drive, Woodside (8:30-11:00)

Leader: Christin New: new.a.christin@gmail.com. See January 8th. Register: <http://bit.ly/3F1W9NC>

Thursday, February 16, Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge, Santa Cruz (9:00-12:00)

This is a level walk around the City of Santa Cruz Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge. Wildlife inhabiting or visiting the refuge include resident and wintering birds and water birds. Neary Lagoon features a wooden pontoon walkway and trail system, allowing a complete circuit around and through the refuge. There is a public restroom in the park. Directions: Entering Santa Cruz from the north on SR 1 turn right on Laurel Street and right on Chestnut Street proceed to 89 Chestnut Street and park at the parking meters. Bring coins!

Leader: Nelle Lyons. Heavy rains cancels. Register: <https://bit.ly/3OXCZvR>

Thursday, February 16, Filoli Historic House and Garden, Woodside (9:30-12:00)

See description January 19th field trip.

Leader: Kimberlie Moutoux. kimberliemoutoux@gmail.com

Friday, February 17, Arrowhead Marsh, MLK Regional Shoreline, Oakland (8:00-11:30)

This is a slow-paced trip along a level trail, excellent for all levels of birding. A scope is useful here. Many birds can be close enough for great photo opportunities. We should see various water birds with a chance for Ridgway's Rail. Directions: From I-880 in Oakland, take Hegenberger Rd or 98th Ave to Doolittle Dr, turn right (west), turn right (north) at Swan Way and take first left to Arrowhead Marsh and proceed to the last parking lot (Coordinates 37.74194693104805, -122.20896756181864).

Leader: Donna Pomeroy dpom@comcast.net Heavy rains cancels. Register: <http://bit.ly/3AO3AFQ>

Saturday, February 18, Pacific Commons Linear Park, Fremont (9:00-12:00)

Join us for an approx. 2-mile bird walk on level ground bordering wetlands with some grassland. We will look for resident birds, wintering waterbirds, grassland birds, and raptors. No restrooms or water on-site. Directions: From I-880 in Fremont, take the Auto Mall Parkway Exit heading west. Go approx. 1.5 miles to a cul-de-sac (7020 Auto Mall Parkway) and park in the dirt parking lot before the railroad tracks. (Coordinates 37.4956800, -121.9885690).

Leader: Don Pendleton. thyinspector@gmail.com. Register: <http://bit.ly/3EE63DV>

Sunday, February 19, Pescadero State Nature Preserve, Pescadero (8:30-12:00)

Join us for a walk on dirt trails with some sand. Pescadero State Nature Preserve is an important wintering ground and breeding area for a diversity of birds. We hope to see, or at least hear, the elusive Virginia Rail and/or Sora. Restrooms are available. Directions: Take SR 1 south from Half Moon Bay. Cross the Pescadero Creek Bridge and turn into the first parking lot just south of the bridge (also known as the Cabrillo Highway South Parking). If you get to Pescadero Road, you've gone too far south. Rain cancels.

Leader: Nelle Lyons ltigger1nl@gmail.com. Register: <https://bit.ly/3VomwMv>

Saturday, February 25, Nob Hill Pond, Redwood Shores for Beginners (9:00-11:00)

A beginner and family-friendly bird walk at an excellent area to view a variety of ducks and 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. Directions: From US 101 in San Carlos, take the Redwood Shores Parkway exit, pass the shopping center, turn right on Bridge Parkway, then right at Tiller Lane. Follow Tiller Lane. to Spar Drive and turn left. where there is a small cul-de-sac with street parking where we'll meet.

Leader: JR Blair: jrblair20@gmail.com. Rain cancels. Register: <http://bit.ly/3gzv5h>

Sunday, March 5, Sunrise Drive, Woodside (8:30-11:00)

See January 8th field trip description.

Leader: Christin New, new.a.christin@gmail.com. Register: <http://bit.ly/3GJojhB>

Tuesday, March 7, U.C. Santa Cruz Arboretum, Santa Cruz, (8:45-12:00)

The UCSC Arboretum, is a popular birding location for both resident and wintering birds including raptors and sparrows. The Arboretum includes a California native plant garden and specializes in plant collections from Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. As we are visiting on the first Tuesday of the month (Community Day), the admission fee is waived. Restrooms available. Directions: Approaching Santa Cruz from the north on SR 1, turn left on Bay Street and proceed east. Turn left at the High St. traffic light at the base of campus (don't go in the main entrance). Proceed on High Street for approx. 1/2 mile to the entrance.

Leader: Nelle Lyons ltigger1nl@gmail.com. Register: <https://bit.ly/3B4t9Cn>

Wednesday, March 8, Lower Windy Hill, Portola Valley (8:00-11:30)

Join us for a moderately strenuous, approx. 2-mile walk on dirt trails through a diverse range of habitats, which hosts oak specialties like White-breasted Nuthatch, Oak Titmouse, and Nuttall's Woodpecker, and a small pond that hosts Wood Ducks in some years. Primitive restrooms in the parking lot. Directions: Windy Hill Open Space Preserve lower parking lot (555 Portola Valley Road, Portola Valley).

Leader: Donna Pomeroy, dpom@comcast.net. Rain cancels. Register: <http://bit.ly/3B8UPGD>

Saturday, March 11, Pacific Commons Linear Park, Fremont (8:30-11:30)

See February 18th field trip description.

Leader: Don Pendleton, thyinspector@gmail.com. Register: <http://bit.ly/3GKXRUO>

Thursday, March 16, Filoli Historic House and Garden, Woodside (9:30-12:00)

Leader: Kimberlie Moutoux. See trip description January 19th.

Saturday, March 18, Bedwell Bayfront Park, Menlo Park (10:00-12:00)

Family-friendly beginner bird walk on fairly level trails exploring the upland and wetland areas of the park. Wintering shorebirds and waterfowl will still be present, raptors, egrets, and LBBs (little brown birds) can also be found. Bring your binoculars or borrow ours. Directions: From US 101, take Marsh Rd. east (SR84 East), then continue straight into the park. Meet at the parking lot near the restrooms.

Leader: JR Blair. jrblair20@gmail.com. Rain cancels. Register: <http://bit.ly/3EDzQfU>

Sunday, March 19, 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. Resident birds and winter visitors will be present. There are two pit toilets along the trail. Directions: Take SR1 south from Half Moon Bay and turn east on Higgins Canyon Rd. Due to limited parking, we will carpool up to the park. Meet at the Johnston House parking lot, 110 Higgins Canyon Rd.

Leader: Ginny Marshall. ginnybirder@gmail.com. Rain cancels Register: <http://bit.ly/3GJqulh>

Thursday, March 23, Water Lane and Pescadero Marsh, Pescadero (8:30-12:00)

A 2 to 3-mile walk at Water Lane on the eastern marsh edge featuring a mix of habitats. We will start at the Water Lane parking lot and visit other areas of the marsh. There are no facilities at Water Lane, restrooms are nearby at Pescadero State Beach. Directions: Take SR1 towards Pescadero and then turn east at Pescadero Creek Rd. Proceed about 1.1 miles east to Water Lane and turn left to approx. 350 Water Lane, to the California State Park sign.

Leader: Nelle Lyons ltigger1nl@gmail.com. Rain cancels. Register: <https://bit.ly/3Hr5PDD>

Saturday, March 25, Mori Point, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Pacifica (8:30-11:00).

Beginner and family-friendly bird walk on accessible level trails through coastal scrub, lagoon, salt marsh, beach, and ocean rocks. We will look for sparrows, finches, gulls, wading birds, seabirds, and more! Most of the walking is flat, with a slight incline toward the beach. However, the optional walk up to the elevated bluff is short but moderately steep and less accessible. Restroom and port-a-potty at the trailhead. Directions: From SR 1 south of Sharp Park Rd, turn right on Mori Point Rd and follow it west to the parking area at Mori Point Rd and Bradford Way (798 Bradford Way) in Pacifica. The Moose-Lodge Pacifica is right across the street from the trailhead. Limited parking spaces in the Mori Point parking lot with nearby street parking.

Leader: Emily Kim. Ekim56310@gmail.com. Rain cancels. Register: <http://bit.ly/3V9HZzw>

OFFICERS

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

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

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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 enthralles 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.



Great Horned Owls in Half Moon Bay, photo credit Jan Null, CCM

Sequoia Audubon Society Membership

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:

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Check out our Online Birding Guide:

www.birding.sequoia-audubon.org

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Conservation: http://conservation@sequoia-audubon.groups.io

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