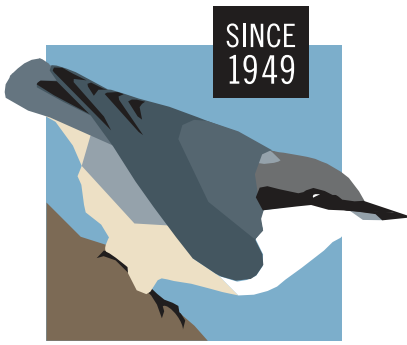




SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society, San Mateo County

*Volume 74, No. 3
July - Sept. 2023*

SAS Annual Meeting

The June 8 Sequoia Audubon Society (SAS) monthly meeting was a bittersweet affair. Sweet because it featured a fascinating discussion on spark birds; bitter because we said a heartfelt farewell to Jennifer Rycenga, a longtime member, outgoing President and program chair, and passionate advocate for bird conservation. Doors opened early to give friends and members a chance to socialize and enjoy a beautiful spread of appetizers and treats.

Jennifer led the dive into the stories and experiences of our members, who shared their personal stories about spark birds, both in person and by Zoom. Jennifer's enthusiasm was contagious, and attendees couldn't help but be inspired to remember their own spark birds and share their stories with others.

Following the engaging presentation, the meeting took a poignant turn as the society bid farewell to Jennifer, who is relocating to the east coast to help her beloved Mother, Dolores.

Jennifer has been a pillar of the Sequoia Audubon community, tirelessly dedicating her time and energy to various projects, notably the San Mateo County Birding Guide as well as involving SAS in bioblitzes, and persuading notable birders across the country to give talks.

As the evening drew to a close, the sense of camaraderie and shared purpose among the attendees was palpable. The meeting deepened our appreciation for spark birds and highlighted the importance of community in bird conservation. Jennifer's farewell serves as a reminder that each of us can play a vital role in advancing the organization's mission and that our collective efforts could make a real difference.

This Sequoia Audubon Society meeting was an unforgettable event. It celebrated the awe-inspiring beauty of spark birds and paid tribute to a remarkable individual who has touched the lives of many. The meeting left attendees feeling inspired, grateful, and determined to continue their pursuit of birding, conservation, and the invaluable sense of connection that comes with being part of the Sequoia Audubon community. View pictures at: <http://bit.ly/SASJune8>

Monthly Meetings

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

September 14 - Hybrid
Shorebirds - Don't judge a
book by its cover
Alvaro Jaramillo

Conservation update by Chris MacIntosh

If anything here is of concern to you and you'd like to help the team, please get in touch.

Burlingame is considering a large lab and office building abutting Mills Creek and the Shorebird Sanctuary at the Bay edge. This building, at 1499 Bayshore, is proposed to be twice the currently permissible height and will, of course, be all glass. Sequoia submitted comments to the Planning Commission.

The developer of 620 Airport Blvd. told us that, following our volunteer's giving them the American Bird Conservancy's design book and explaining our concerns, they plan to incorporate more bird-friendly building design. A little education can go a long way!

Redwood Life, in **Redwood Shores**, was the topic of a Redwood City city council study session on April 24. Many people from the environmental community commented, including SAS, about concerns regarding the size (3.3 million sq. ft. on 79 acres), impact of more 24/7 use by biotech, as well as the potential issues to do with siting this huge development atop landfill adjacent to Bay waters. There is an existing Westport Specific Plan covering this area, which merits being maintained.

Redwood City: Sequoia submitted comments on the plan for the **Ferry Terminal** at the end of Seaport Blvd. Other concerns in Redwood City, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and elsewhere are still very active and keeping your conservation committee busy.

If you want to help birds and wildlife and join our committee, we'd love to have your help. conservation@sequoia-audubon.org

MEETING PROGRAM

September 14 – Hybrid

Shorebirds – Don't judge a book by its cover with Alvaro Jaramillo

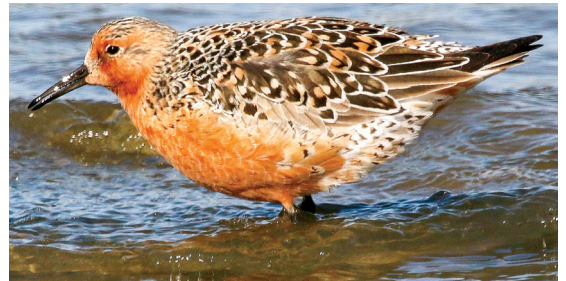
I have probably talked about the identification of shorebirds, perhaps almost as much as I have about gulls. They are poster children for bird identification issues, peeps, dowitchers, yellowlegs, well.... I could go on. But there is more to shorebirds than just how they look and how to separate one from the other. Don't get me wrong; I can't help myself; I will talk a bit about identification. But how about what shorebirds do, act, and how they interact with their environment? That is the less-told story, and it is a massive story. Shorebirds are amongst the most exciting birds out there.

To give you a sampling of the topics we will cover, there is the classic situation with the phalaropes, where females are brighter in plumage and larger than males. Ok, but there are other shorebirds that shift from one breeding style to the other depending on what is going on in their environment. Then you have the opposite situation where males "lek" and provide no care to the young, unlike phalaropes and many other shorebirds where male parental care is the norm. The word "lek," which means "playground," was actually first used for a shorebird, the Ruff. The Ruff can have much individual variation, as well as multiple behaviors and genetic-based versions of each sex, that it becomes a poster child for how unusual shorebirds are. But the ecology and physiology of shorebirds are also absolutely fantastic. They span from different morphologies, an amazingly diverse set of bill types, for example, to find food and minimize competition. When it comes to migration, these are record holders in terms of long-distance flights. But also, how the migration happens is noteworthy, including the physiology of burning fat and muscle to get them to their final destinations.

This talk will shine a light on behavior, ecology, migration, the beauty of shorebirds, and even their voices! They are more than just identification issues.



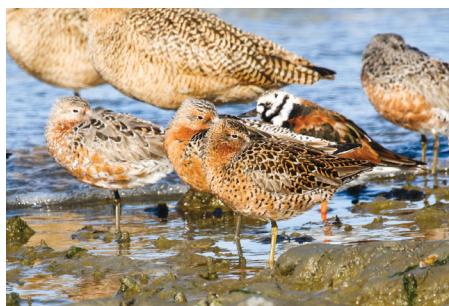
Ruddy Turnstone



Red Knot



Pacific Golden Plover



Short-billed Dowitcher, Red Knot



Short-billed Dowitcher, Willet, Dunlin



Bar-tailed Godwit



Sequoia Field Trips



*Please note that rain or Air Quality Index over 150 cancels, unless otherwise stated.
Bring binoculars, water, snacks, sunscreen, and dress in layers as weather can change.*

Sunday, July 16, Sunrise Drive, Woodside (8:30-11:00) We are likely to see both resident birds and visiting breeding birds. 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. Typical woodland hazards such as ticks, poison oak, and yellowjackets are present. There is no water or restroom at the parking area, although there is a pit toilet about 1/3 of the way along the walk. Directions: Take Hwy 35, Skyline Dr to Hwy 84 (La Honda Rd) in Woodside. From this intersection, go east on Hwy 84. In approximately one mile, turn left onto Skywood Way. Turn right onto Sunrise Drive and park along the shoulder. Please note that Hwy 84 between Portola Rd and Fox Hill Rd is closed indefinitely due to storm damage. **Leader:** Christin New: new.a.christin@gmail.com. Register: <https://bit.ly/3WT5b6T>

Wednesday, July 19, Filoli Historic House and Garden, Woodside (9:30-12:00) Join us for a 2-2.5 mile moderate bird walk on the Filoli Gardens and Estate trail. Habitats include mixed oak, redwood, madrone woodlands, riparian corridor, and historic horse pastures. Our leader walks these trails weekly and is excited to share them. Restrooms are available. Directions to 86 Canada Road, Woodside: from Highway 280, exit Edgewood Rd and head west. At the T intersection, turn right onto Canada Rd. In ½ mile, turn left into the property. Park under the oaks on the left side of the lot and look for the leader there. Register for this event with the leader first. When you register, the leader will provide instructions to buy the Filoli ticket online. The cost for an all-day Filoli ticket is \$36-adult \$34-senior. Rain or shine. **Leader:** Kimberlie Moutoux: kimberliemoutoux@gmail.com

Saturday, August 5, Francis Beach, Half Moon Bay State Beach (8:30-12:00) Beginners welcome. We will look for resident and post-breeding birds preparing to migrate. 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. Contact the trip leader if you want to request loaner binoculars. Restrooms are available. Directions: From SR1 in Half Moon Bay, take Kelly Ave west to the end of the road and meet at the Half Moon Bay State Beach Visitor Center, 95 Kelly Ave. The day-use fee is \$10.00 and can be used to visit any other local state park for the remainder of the day. Frequent State Park visitors may want to get an annual or special state park pass – see www.parks.ca.gov. **Leader:** Nelle Lyons: ltigger1nl@gmail.com. Register: <https://bit.ly/42s2Kt8>

Wednesday, August 16, Filoli Historic House and Garden, Woodside (9:30-12:00) See July 19 trip for description. **Leader:** Kimberlie Moutoux: kimberliemoutoux@gmail.com

Thursday, August 31, Wilder Ranch State Park, Santa Cruz (8:30-12:00) Join us for a ~2.5 mile mostly level walk starting on the Old Cove Landing Trail through various habitats and looping back to the parking lot. Habitats include Douglas fir 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 bird species. Restrooms in the parking area. The entrance fee is \$10. Directions: Wilder Ranch SP is located west of SR 1, just north of Santa Cruz. Turn right (west) on Coast Road as you approach Santa Cruz on SR 1. We will meet at the Wilder Ranch SP day-use parking lot at 1842 Coast Road. **Leader:** Nelle Lyons: ltigger1nl@gmail.com. Register: <https://bit.ly/3Cd5i3M>

Wednesday, September 6, Filoli Historic House and Garden, Woodside (9:30-12:00) See July 19 trip for description. **Leader:** Kimberlie Moutoux: kimberliemoutoux@gmail.com

Wednesday, September 20, Coyote Point County Park, San Mateo (8:00-11:00)

Join us for a leisurely stroll around Coyote Point Park, looking at the abundant shorebirds and, hopefully, some fall migrants. With the large variety of habitats at Coyote Point, we should be able to see a number of species. Restrooms are available. Directions: Exit Peninsula Ave. from US 101 and follow the signs to the park (1701 Coyote Point Drive), then follow signs to the yacht club parking. \$6 admission charge or free for seniors. **Leader:** Donna Pomeroy: dpom@comcast.net. Register: <https://bit.ly/3Cbp1kj>

Thursday, September 21, Moss Landing and Elkhorn Slough, Monterey County (8:30-3:00) This trip will explore some of Monterey County's best fall birding hotspots. We will plan to bird at Jetty Road in Moss Landing, where sea otters are sometimes seen, Elkhorn Slough, and other spots as we have time. At midday, lunch with the group at a local restaurant, or bring your own, and we will reconvene for afternoon birding. A pit toilet is available at Jetty Rd, and other restroom stops will be available. Directions: Take State Route 1 south towards Moss Landing. Turn right on Jetty Rd at the north end of the Moss Landing area and park on the side of the road (coordinates 36.816915, -121.786330). You have gone too far if you cross Elkhorn Slough or drive past the power plant. **Leader:** Nelle Lyons: ltigger1nl@gmail.com Register: <https://bit.ly/3Naa60a>

Saturday, September 23, Palo Alto Baylands for Beginners/Families, Palo Alto (9:00-11:00) Meet at the Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center, Palo Alto Baylands, 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 we will look for arriving winter migrants, migrating shorebirds, and resident birds. Restrooms available. **Leader:** JR Blair: jrblair20@gmail.com. Register: <https://bit.ly/3IUkJlb>

Thursday, September 28, Natural Bridges State Park, Santa Cruz (8:30-12:00) We will take a 2-3 mile level walk to look for fall migrants, shorebirds, and water birds. This Santa Cruz park includes a rocky beach, open ocean, shoreline cliffs, and tidepools great for viewing shorebirds, loons, grebes, and alcids. Within the park, we will search the freshwater wetlands, coastal scrubs, and eucalyptus groves for fall migrants. Restrooms are available in the park but not immediately at the parking/meeting location. Directions: From State Route 1 southbound entering Santa Cruz turn right on Western Ave, right on University Business Park, and left on Natural Bridges Dr, and proceed to Delaware Ave. Turn right on Delaware Ave and park on the street near the intersection (approximate address 2340 Delaware Avenue, coordinates 36.954799, -122.057206). **Leader:** Nelle Lyons: ltigger1nl@gmail.com. Register: <https://bit.ly/3OVc5GY>

OFFICERS

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

At Large: Linda Adler, Doug Brown,
Beverly Cronin, Marshall Dinowitz,
John Epperson, Melissa Hero, 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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Sequoia Audubon Society Board and Education Volunteer Opportunities:

Nominating Committee – Board of Directors. A nominating committee, including John Epperson and Nelle Lyons, will review Sequoia Audubon's open board positions with plans to present some recommendations to the general membership for consideration at the September 14 monthly meeting. If you would like to serve on the committee or if you would like to nominate someone to the board of directors, please email Nelle Lyons at ltigger1nl@gmail.com. Your input is valued.

Education Committee. Additionally, I am seeking volunteers to participate on the Education Committee to help review our program materials and develop new materials to take into classrooms. We also need volunteers interested in presenting programs in classrooms or on field trips for students. In order to advertise school programs for teachers, we need Sequoia Audubon members who are willing to be presenters. It's been three years since we've been able to present educational programs, and we're anxious to start again in the fall. If you want to help with planning or presentations, please message Nelle Lyons ltigger1nl@gmail.com.

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:

_____ 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

Join our Discussion Group:

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

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