



SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

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July - September 2016

The Global Big Day 2016 *by Rob Furrow*

You've probably heard of a "Big Day" – an event where a team of birders attempts to see and hear as many species of birds as possible in one 24-hour period. Saturday, May 14, was a big day taken to the extreme. The area: the entire world. The team: every willing birder. The Global Big Day, coordinated by the online bird observation database eBird, tasked birders throughout the world to submit checklists of their bird sightings for the day. On that Saturday, 15,953 birders from 145 countries participated, submitting 43,848 checklists. In total, birders found an astounding 6,256 species in a single day!

Although the effort was global, our local birding was equally important to understanding the big picture of bird populations. San Mateo County had 46 hearty eBirders in the field, finding 169 species. That's almost half of the species detected in California on May 14 (347),



The Gazos Gazers, Pigeon Point Lighthouse
photo by Jennifer Rycenga

25% of the species recorded in the American Birding Association (ABA) area (670), and 3% of species worldwide (6256). All this from our small 744 square-mile patch perched on the Pacific. David Nickerson scored over 100 species in the county, placing him in the top ten of California participants in the Global Big Day (and San Mateo county had 5 of the top 25 California participants).

This was great fun, but the true purpose is deeper. The Global Big Day gives researchers a snapshot of bird distribution and numbers throughout the world. This provides insight into bird migration, conservation, and may even lead to the discovery of previously unknown wintering or breeding sites. Best of all, this was an open and democratic effort. Anyone can submit records on eBird and become a contributor to this important, growing body of information. May 14th was the Global Big Day, but we learn something from bird observations made every day of the year. So get out there and bird!



Northern Gannet, Pillar Point Harbor
photo by Donna Pomeroy

Monthly Meetings

San Mateo Garden Center
(no monthly meeting in July or August)

September

Thursday, September 8th 7 pm

Conservation Birding in
Northern Colombia

Alvaro Jaramillo

Upcoming Field Trips

July

Sun. 10th Edgewood County Park

Sat-Sun 30-31 Mono Lake Basin &
Eastern Sierra Slope

August

Sun. 14th Edgewood County Park

Sun. 21st Arastradero Preserve

Thur. 25th Stulsaft Park

Sat. 27th Radio Road by Bike

September

Wed. 7th Coyote Point County Park

Sun. 11th Edgewood County Park

Tues. 13th Hawk Hill

Sun. 18th Coal Creek Open Space
Preserve

Wed. 21st Moss Landing/Elkhorn
Slough

Other Events

July 24th Summer Planning Meeting

Oct. 9th The Big Sit

The Board Is Changing! – Jennifer Rycenga, President, Sequoia Audubon Society

Sequoia Audubon has been graced with an accomplished, hard-working Board for this entire decade. Together with you, our members, we have built this organization into a nationally and regionally recognized chapter. As a primarily volunteer organization though, even the most dedicated Board members change their roles or move on to other areas of interest. This year we have a particularly dramatic shift of Board personnel.

Welcome New Board Members

Doug Brown, Marshall Dinowitz, and Doug Pomeroy have agreed to join the slate for the Board. We'll provide their biographies after the election.

Thanks to these Outgoing Board Members

Pati Rouzer, in addition to serving on the Board also worked as the Chapter Coordinator for Sequoia this past year. Sequoia participated in bird monitoring and bird walks at Google and Facebook, as well as strengthening our ties to national and state Audubon. Many of you appreciated her Habitat at Home display on bird-friendly gardening.

Malia DeFelice undertook the continuing San Mateo County Year List, and organized our Field Trips in recent years. Her knowledge and enthusiasm for the avian history of our county will continue to be tremendous assets for Sequoia.

Melissa Hero – Melissa's computer savvy and expertise in current Citizen-Science technologies have been invaluable to Sequoia. She also became a most capable Secretary, taking that task decisively into the 21st century!

Edwin Geer – Edwin's participation in the Conservation committee maintained Sequoia's strong track record of involvement along the coast. He and J.C. Shaver also did a fabulous job as the Hospitality committee at our monthly local meetings.

Leslie Flint – Leslie's contributions to Sequoia extend over such a range and time span that they are difficult to summarize. She has been planning our splendid monthly meeting programs recently, adding to her already impressive decades-long work managing our two nationally-renowned Christmas Bird Counts. She has also been a vital part of Sequoia Audubon's embrace of Citizen-Science, eBird, and bio-blitzing.

If you are interested in helping to shape the future of Sequoia Audubon Society please consider joining the Board. While all members' ideas are welcome and encouraged, participating as a Board or Committee Member increases the opportunity to get involved in the "nuts & bolts" of the chapter. We have several open positions at this time, as shown below. Please have a look and let us know if you (or anyone you know!) are interested by contacting Sequoia Audubon at: (650) 529-1454 or office@sequoia-audubon.org

Open positions include:

- **Administrative Coordinator:** Manage the day-to-day activities of the chapter, plan events (this is a paid position)
- **Newsletter Editor:** Help collect and lay out content for the quarterly newsletter.
- **Field Trip Chair:** Solicit field trips for each quarter starting from a roster of past trips and leaders; publicize via established procedures
- **Program Chair:** Arrange speakers for the monthly meetings.
- **Hospitality:** Set up the room, arrange snacks, and greet guests at monthly meetings

MEETING PROGRAMS

September 8, 2016 “Conservation Birding in Northern Colombia” *with Alvaro Jaramillo*

Many birders have heard that Colombia is the country that has the largest list of birds, the most bird-rich nation on earth! So why is it not full of birders? It is on an incredible upswing, but it is still coming out of a decades long conflict, political as well as involving the drug trade. Well, those days are becoming history. The country has done a very sharp turnaround and it is now as safe as traveling in adjacent Panama or Ecuador. The birding is astounding, and there are some wonderfully unique spots to visit. Among these is the Santa Marta mountain range, a mountain separate from the Andes that has an incredible level of endemism – species that cannot be found anywhere else on earth. Santa Marta as well as nearby dry forests, coastal desert and the Perijá Mountains to the east, make northern Colombia an amazing way to begin to dip your toes in the unbelievable birding found in Colombia. Alvaro has been involved in a large project with National Audubon in the last couple of years that aims to promote conservation through economic development. How? Well, by creating the infrastructure and guide training to increase birding tourism in the area. When people earn a living from birding, they will preserve the birds and habitat. Come hear about this innovative program (recently featured in Audubon Magazine) while learning about the birds and birding in Colombia.



Russet-throated Puffbird
photo by Leslie Flint



White-tailed Starfrontlet
photo by Alvaro Jaramillo



In the Santa Martas *photo by Alvaro Jaramillo*



Sequoia Field Trips

Edgewood County Park

Sunday, July 10, 7:00 am – 11:00 am (Note earlier start/end times for July & August only)

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

Pelagic season starts in July!

Though these are not Sequoia Audubon Field Trips, July marks the start of the Pelagic Trip season which runs roughly from Jul – Oct. The best way to see seabirds that rarely visit land, is to book a pelagic trip! Alvaro's Adventures will be running 3 pelagic trips in July on the 9th, the 16th and the 23rd. Each trip is run out of Half Moon Bay. Visit Alvaro Jaramillo's website for more information <http://alvarosadventures.com/boat-trips/pelagics/> Debi Shearwater will start her Shearwater Journey's pelagic trips out of Half Moon Bay in August. Information for Debi's pelagic trips can be found here: <http://www.shearwaterjourneys.com/>

Mono Lake Basin & Eastern Sierra Slope (Trip full with waiting list)

Saturday July 30 & Sunday July 31

Join us for spectacular scenery and birding in a variety of habitats around Mono Lake, Lee Vining, and the Eastern slope of the Sierra. On Saturday we'll start at dawn, birding Mono Lake's shores, marshes and scrub. We'll do our best to see the special birds of the region including flycatchers (dusky, gray and willow), Pinyon Jay, Thick-billed Fox Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee, and various shorebirds. As the day heats up we'll head into two nearby valleys to search for woodpeckers (White-headed, Black-backed, and Hairy Woodpeckers, Williamson's and Red-breasted Sapsuckers), Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, and Northern Goshawk. Sunday morning will also start early, searching for sagebrush specialties such as Greater Sage Grouse, Sagebrush Sparrow, Sage Thrasher and Brewer's Sparrow. We'll end our time together in the high Sierra by having brunch/lunch at a nearby resort with feeders and gardens that attract high-altitude species including Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Cassin's Finch, Mountain Chickadee and Clark's Nutcracker. **This trip is now full, but please contact Adam Dudley if you'd like to be placed on the waiting list** in case there is a cancellation.

Leader: Adam Dudley **Contact:** Adam.Dudley@iCloud.com

Edgewood County Park

Sunday, August 14, 7:00 am – 11:00 am (Note earlier start/end times for July & August only)

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

Enid Pearson Arastradero Preserve

Sunday August 21, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Arastradero is a wonderful park with rolling hills, oak trees and meadowland. We will look for Western Bluebirds, Swallows, Lazuli Bunting, Acorn Woodpeckers and several hawk species. Golden Eagle and Bald Eagle are also possible here. We will walk 2-4 miles at birders' pace. It can get hot here so bring water. **Directions:** take highway 280 south. Exit Page Mill Rd and go west (right). Turn right on Arastradero Road. The parking lot will be on the right.

Leader: Ginny Marshall **Contact:** ginnybirder@sbcglobal.net

Rarely Birded Spots in San Mateo County - Stulsaft Park

Thursday, August 25, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

This hidden gem in the foothills of Redwood City features a surprising habitat mix and a little-explored trail system. We will meet for a late afternoon/early evening hike, hoping to hear Western Screech-Owl at the end of the day. A perfect after-dinner bird search, we'll observe roosting behaviors, bed-time bird song, and more. **Directions:** Meet at the main entrance to the park, at 3737 Farm Hill Blvd. *Steady rain cancels.*

Leader: Jennifer Rycenga **Contact:** gyrrlfalcon@earthlink.net

Radio Road by Bike

Saturday, August 27, 9:00 am - 11:30 am

High tide brings many shorebirds to roost at the Radio Road ponds in Redwood Shores. On this biking trip, we'll enjoy these birds, then ride the bike trails over to several nearby ponds and parks. Expect a nice array of shorebirds, the first of the returning winter ducks, and hopefully some songbird migration. 3-4 miles of biking in total. Heavy rain cancels. Any bike is fine, but you should come prepared with binoculars, water, sunscreen, warm clothes, and snacks. **Helmets are required.** **Directions:** Meet by the dog park on Radio Road in Redwood Shores. Once Radio Road hits a T at the ponds, turn right to find parking by the dog park.

Leader: Rob Furrow **Contact:** robertfurrow@gmail.com

Coyote Point County Park

Wednesday, September 7, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

We will meet at the parking lot by the Yacht Club for a leisurely stroll around Coyote Point Park looking at the abundant shorebirds and hopefully, some fall migrants. With such a variety of habitats at Coyote Point, we should be able to see quite a number of species. There is an admission charge to the park of \$6 or free for seniors. **Directions:** Exit Peninsula Ave from Hwy 101 and follow the signs to the park.

Leader: Laurie Graham **Contact:** greylag64@gmail.com

Edgewood County Park

Sunday, September 11, 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

Hawk Hill

Tuesday, September 13, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

There has been an official raptor count in the Marin Headlands for more than 25 years. Peak migration lasts from mid-September through mid-October. Robbie Fischer has been a Hawkwatch volunteer for ten years. We will enjoy the spectacle and attempt to identify raptors as they fly by Hawk Hill. Here is the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory website for additional background <http://ggro.org/>

Directions: Cross the Golden Gate Bridge and take the second exit, Alexander Avenue. Get in the left lane following signs that read "101 San Francisco." Turn left at the stop sign and cross under the freeway. Turn right onto Conzelman Road and drive 1.8 miles to Hawk Hill. Park alongside the road at the top of the hill, just before the road becomes one-way. Walk up the west side of Hawk Hill past the locked gate. It's just a few hundred feet to the summit. Bring binoculars, lunch and a chair if you like.

Leader: Robbie Fischer **Contact:** robbie22@pacbell.net

Rarely Birded Spots in San Mateo County - Coal Creek Open Space Preserve

Sunday, September 18, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Wedge between the better-known Russian Ridge, Monte Bello and Windy Hill Preserves, Coal Creek is one of the least-known Open Space Preserves in the county. Join us for this leisurely 2-mile round-trip hike. We will be searching the skies for migrating raptors, and the edges along the old Alpine Road (now a hiking trail) for migrating passerines. Bring your camera for extraordinary views, too! We will meet at the Vista Point pullout along Skyline Boulevard (SR 35), 1.2 miles north of Page Mill Road and about 6 miles south of Woodside Road (SR 84), across from Russian Ridge gate RR01. Visit the park map if you are unfamiliar with this area, at http://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/pr_coal_creek.pdf, and on the San Mateo County Birding Guide (<http://birding.sequoia-audubon.org/>).

Leader: Jennifer Rycenga **Contact:** gyrrlfalcon@earthlink.net

Moss Landing/Elkhorn Slough; RSVP REQUIRED

Wednesday September 21; whole day trip, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

This trip will explore some of Monterey County's best fall birding hotspots. We will plan to bird at Moss Landing, Moon Glow Dairy, Zmudowsky State Beach, and other spots as we have time. Plan to have lunch with the group at a great local seafood restaurant. **Contact the leader to reserve a space** and for carpooling and directions info.

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



Birding by Bike with Rob Furrow



First Wednesday with Donna Pomeroy



April Pinnacles Field Trip with Leslie Flint

Audubon Canyon Ranch Update – The Mountain Lion Project *by John Epperson*

Some Sequoia Audubon members may not be aware of the connection between our chapter and Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR), an environmental non-profit organization in Marin and Sonoma counties. ACR was formed more than 50 years ago to protect an important heron and egret rookery near Bolinas Lagoon, when it was learned that the ranch where the rookery was located was being sold for development, which would lead to destruction of the rookery. The environmental legal landscape was very different 50 years ago, so Marin Audubon led the charge to purchase the land and manage it as a preserve. Initially, four local Audubon chapters - Marin, Madrone, Golden Gate, and Sequoia - helped operate ACR, including providing people to serve as the first Board of Directors.

Fifty years later, ACR has grown beyond those initial ambitions and now manages more than 5,000 acres of open space, with four major preserves and many smaller properties that have been donated to ACR by prior owners who wanted to ensure the land was not developed. The mission of ACR has solidified into three major areas: open space preservation, environmental education, and conservation science. The four Audubon chapters remain involved, including a seat on the Board of Directors for each chapter; but ACR now has professional staff, a multi-million dollar annual budget and many volunteers.

The conservation science program has recently gotten an exciting new boost with the announcement of a new Mountain Lion Project. Led by internationally-acclaimed big cat researcher Dr. Quinton Martins, the project will study the local mountain lion population, their ranges and behaviors, and help to minimize conflicts between humans and mountain lions. Dr. Martins founded the Cape Leopard Trust in South Africa to accomplish similar objectives. Lions will be studied using recently-installed trail cameras and tracking collars, once permission to trap and collar the animals is obtained from the state of California. The program will integrate with ACR's nature education program to provide opportunities for people to learn the facts about these animals and dispel fears that can contribute to human-lion conflicts. It will also generate scientific information about the animals in this particular habitat that can be used to inform future decision-making involving these beautiful top predators. Much more information about this exciting program can be found at ACR's website: www.egret.org.



Mountain Lion, photo courtesy of Audubon Canyon Ranch

OFFICERS

President: Open
Vice President: Ginny Marshall
Secretary: Rob Furrow
Treasurer: Aakansha Mehrotra

At Large: Doug Brown, Marshall Dinowitz, Nelle Lyons, Doug Pomeroy, Jennifer Rycenga, Susan Stratton

Consulting Biologist

Alvaro Jaramillo

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John Epperson

Bluebird Recovery
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Leslie Flint 650-573-6279

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Nelle Lyons

Field Trips
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Hospitality
Open

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Susan Stratton needles@sequoia-audubon.org

Editor
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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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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>.

Have fun and help birds – volunteer!

We're looking for an Environmental Educator, Graphic Designers, Field Trip Leaders and a home office. If you have skills, talents and enthusiasm, we want you!

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)	\$15.00
and students (<25)	\$20.00
Individual membership	\$25.00
Family membership	\$
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

or check out our website: www.sequoia-audubon.org

Online Birding Guide:

www.birding.sequoia-audubon.org

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SequoiaAudubon>

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