



SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society, San Mateo County

*Volume 72, No. 3
July - September 2021*

Birders, Restart your Collective Community Efforts!

While prognosticating about COVID restrictions has been a high-stakes gambling game for over a year now, we at Sequoia Audubon Society do plan to restart our field trips in September, and to take our meetings live beginning in October 2021. As we restart our field trips and continue our meeting programming for the 2021-2022 season, what sorts of trips and programs do you want to see or attend? We are always eager to hear from our members – and to encourage new members to join and share their fresh energy!

Of course, Sequoia Audubon Society will follow all local, state, and federal safety guidelines, and continually encourage our members to trust in the scientific processes that determine these policies. Scientific method is based on questioning and proving, not on dogma nor on carping criticism. Trusting in science is based not on its infallibility, but on its self-correctability! It is for this reason that we at Sequoia have so enthusiastically embraced Community Science.

As birders and naturalists, what we observe can contribute to scientific knowledge. We have proven to be an outstanding chapter in this regard, contributing as a community through mechanisms like the San Mateo County Year List, Christmas Bird Count, Global Big Day, eBird, iNaturalist, and BioBlitzes. With the effects of climate change and fire altering the ecosystems of our county and state, the more day-by-day data we accumulate, the better scientific projections can become.

Many of you spent some COVID time exploring areas closer to home than usual. You can share what you've discovered through many media in addition to the standard Community Science projects. For instance, even a paragraph for this newsletter, about a local patch you've been visiting, or a new pocket park with promising habitat, will be appreciated by your friends, neighbors, and future birders. Send an email to the editor at office@sequoia-audubon.org. Or you could suggest a new entry or revision to an entry in the San Mateo County Birding Guide - <http://birding.sequoia-audubon.org/> - by writing to me at smcbgeditor@earthlink.net.

One of the newest Community Science projects is an especially important one for inclusivity. This is the National Audubon Society's BIRDABILITY project which tracks accessibility for birders who have mobility, sight, or hearing restrictions. This includes charting parking, trail access, restroom access, and other parameters at any and every birding site across the country - with your help. Check it out at <https://www.birdability.org/>, and get involved now. Anyone can contribute a site listing using their online portal. We at Sequoia are committed to Birdability, and will make sure that by our 75th anniversary in 2024 every site in the San Mateo County Birding Guide has accessibility included in the guide entry, and a corresponding map entry on the Birdability site. If you are a disabled birder, or regularly assist a disabled birder, your contributions would be especially valued – please contact me!

As schools come back into regular session, we will want Sequoia Audubon Society to be able to offer classroom visits to introduce students to the love of birds and nature. We are always looking for more members of the Education Committee to assist with these requests as they reach us. If you are a teacher in the local school systems, please consider reaching out to us.

Whatever happens next in this tumultuous time, remember how nature touched and affected you during the COVID crisis, and share what you are learning with others, whether you do it virtually or in full four-dimensional technicolor reality! We look forward to actually SEEING you soon!

~ Jennifer Rycenga

Monthly Meetings

(no monthly meetings in July or August)

2nd Thursdays at 7:00 pm

Currently online: check website

September 9

Encouraging Birders:

Expanding What It Means To Be

A Twenty-First Century Birder

a multi-generational discussion

with Ted, Hannah and Andrew Floyd

Field Trips

Sat., Sept. 4 Bedwell Bayfront Park

Sun., Sept. 19 Coyote Point

Sat., Sept. 25 Pillar Point Harbor

MEETING PROGRAMS

September 9

Encouraging Birders: Expanding What It Means to Be a Twenty-first Century Birder A Multi-generational Discussion - Ted, Hannah, and Andrew Floyd

The world would be a better place, we all agree, if there were more wildlife watchers. So how do we achieve that outcome? The best approach, according to our September Zoomers, two of whom are, in fact, generational zoomers, is to let go. We need to step back from a one-size-fits-all approach to bird and nature study. We say it, but do we really believe it? In the realm of bird study, must we really pass down our cherished traditions?--study field guides, learn bird ID, join bird clubs, go on tours, own fancy optics. True, that approach has worked well for boomer birders and naturalists who got started decades ago. But who's to say it's what the kids want? Or, just as important, what older folks, just getting started in nature study now, really want? At the very least, we should critically examine that proposition. And, perhaps, be ready to abandon it.

In this presentation, genial but opinionated, we'll wipe the slate clean, and rebuild nature study from the ground up. You won't necessarily burn your binocs and bird books after we're done, but you might come away with an expanded conception of how people engage birds and nature. Our guests are high school junior Hannah Floyd, high school first-year Andrew Floyd, and Ted Floyd, who went to high school long ago. They're all in the same family, but they don't all engage birds and nature the same way. Ted Floyd is the editor of Birding magazine, the flagship publication of the American Birding Association. They'll tell their stories, and they want to hear yours!



Conservation and Advocacy ~ Chris MacIntosh

Did you know that Sequoia Audubon Society (SAS) works to protect birds from many of the development projects in our county? We are looking for members to be our eyes and ears in their local city or area. We would welcome help from you on such things as checking council or commission agendas to see when a project we're working on is scheduled, alerting us to an editorial on a local news site, or letting us know about some development we aren't yet aware of.

Some of SAS's particular concerns are working with cities to include design that will avoid bird strikes on windows due to glass reflectivity, buildings lighted at night, as well as other environmental concerns.

Below are some of the things we are looking at this year. If one of them is near you, or is a development of concern to you, we would love to hear from you. We aren't going to request that you corral ten neighbors, speak at a council meeting, or anything like that (unless you want to) – just let us know if we might be able to call on you when an email needs to be sent, or perhaps a post to FB made, or if you want to keep an eye on the various newspapers and local media sites.

- Burlingame: SFO@Technology Center, Bayshore Highway. Office buildings on edge of Bay with creek running between them design opposed by environmental groups.
- San Mateo: city is looking at sites where they can develop more housing.
- Redwood Shores: along Belmont Slough, the Redwood Life project plans to demolish existing office buildings and put up 1 million square feet of more/larger ones, less distanced from the slough.
- Redwood City: 1 million sq. ft. of office space is proposed on Seaport Blvd near Cargill salt ponds. Proposed ferry service at port.
- East Palo Alto: 900,000 sq. ft. of office and housing, next to Don Edwards SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge land.
- SF PUC Watershed- proposed extension of the Bay Area Ridge trail. We have already had some success in persuading them to change fencing to be more wildlife-friendly.

If you share our concerns and would like to assist our efforts, please email the Conservation Committee: Marshall2003@comcast.net



Sequoia Field Trips



Beginner/Refresher Bird Walk, Bedwell Bayfront Park

Saturday, September 4, 10:00 am – Noon

All are welcome to join Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park and Sequoia Audubon Society for a one to two hour beginner/refresher bird walk. Shorebirds and waterfowl should be arriving as migration starts. Raptors, egrets and LBBs (little brown birds) can usually be seen as well. Bring your binoculars, refillable water bottle and don't forget the sunscreen!

Directions: Meet at the parking lot near the restrooms, 1600 Marsh Rd, Menlo Park. Heavy rain or AQI over 100 cancels. Field Trip Leader: Chris MacIntosh. Registration limited: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beginnerrefresher-bird-walk-tickets-160016659135>

Coyote Point

Sunday, September 19, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm

Coyote Point is a recreational area with a saltwater marsh, marina, picnic areas and a wonderful environmental education museum so this walk is ideal for families and young birders. With a variety of habitats we should be able to see quite a number of species. There is a vehicle entry fee of \$6.00 per car. (Consider buying a San Mateo County Parks Pass if you frequent County Parks)

Directions: Exit Peninsula Ave. from Hwy 101 and follow signs to the park. We'll meet in the parking lot next to the Yacht Club. Heavy rain or AQI over 100 cancels. Field Trip Leaders: Sonny Mencher and Doug Brown. Registration limited: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/coyote-point-birding-walk-tickets-160080393767>

Pillar Point Harbor

Saturday, September 25, 8:00 am – 11:00 am

Pillar Point is a hot spot for birding year-round. We should find a variety of resident birds and hopefully, some migrating shorebirds. Most of the walking will be on a 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.

Directions: The harbor is located just west of Coast Highway One, 18 miles south of San Francisco and 4 miles north of Half Moon Bay. From Highway One, turn west at the signal at Capistrano Rd and continue along the north side of the harbor to Prospect Way. Turn left at 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, then turn right onto West Point Ave, which curves around a marshy area and heads uphill to the Air Force Radar Facility. Meet at the "West Shoreline Access", popularly known as the parking lot to Mavericks. Heavy rain or AQI over 100 cancels. Field Trip Leader: Donna Pomeroy. Registration limited: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pillar-point-harbor-tickets-160086251287>



January 1, 2020 Coyote Hills

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

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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 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.

Support our Chapter’s Work – Donate

Please consider a donation in support of the work we do providing monthly programs, conservation, education and nest box monitoring programs. Thank you!

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>.

amazonsmile

We’re looking for volunteers – Get Involved

Want to have fun while making a difference? We’re looking for help with publicity, website and video support. Have other skills that you’d like to offer, contact us at office@sequoia-audubon.org.

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 _____

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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

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