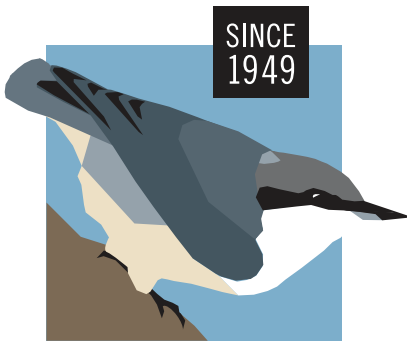




SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Bulletin of the Sequoia Audubon Society, San Mateo County

*Volume 75, No. 3
July - Sept. 2024*

75 Years! Significant Sequoia Achievements

Founded in 1949 by a group of passionate bird enthusiasts, Sequoia Audubon Society (SAS) has grown from humble beginnings to become a dedicated and well-known advocate for conservation in San Mateo County. Over the decades, we have accomplished much, leaving an indelible mark on the landscape and the hearts of its inhabitants.

One of our earliest triumphs came in the 1960s when SAS successfully lobbied to establish the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Stretching across thousands of acres of tidal marshes, salt ponds, and mudflats, the refuge provides vital habitat for millions of migratory birds along the Pacific Flyway.

Throughout the years, SAS has worked tirelessly to protect and restore habitats across the county, in particular spearheading efforts to preserve critical nesting sites for endangered species such as the California least tern and the snowy plover, ensuring their survival for future generations.

A significant achievement came in the 1970s when we successfully advocated for the establishment of the 235-acre Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve, the only extensive tidal wetlands along the San Mateo coast. This designation provided legal protection for the marsh and ensured that it would be managed for the benefit of wildlife and future generations.

Since our founding, SAS has recognized the significance of Pescadero Marsh as a critical habitat for a myriad of bird species, including shorebirds, waterfowl, and raptors. We understood that protecting this fragile ecosystem was paramount not only for the birds but for the entire web of life that depended on it.

In the early years, SAS worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the importance of the marsh and the threats it faced from development and pollution. Through public outreach events, educational programs, and advocacy campaigns, we rallied support from the local community and policymakers to safeguard this natural treasure.

But work didn't stop there. Over the years, Sequoia has been actively monitoring and stewarding the marsh, partnering with government agencies and other organizations to conduct research, restore habitat, and mitigate human impacts.

Another significant accomplishment came in the early 2000s when we led a campaign to save the area that is now Ravenswood Open Space Preserve from development. Through grassroots organizing and public outreach, we rallied support to protect the area, preserving it as a haven for wildlife and nature lovers, and a cherished place to walk for nearby residents.

Note: These are just a few of SAS's accomplishments; if you have information or anecdotes to share about other chapter history, please share them with us by emailing office@sequoia-audubon.org

Monthly Meetings

2nd Thursdays at 7:00 pm

July 11 - Zoom
Avians in Aviation
Natalie Reeder

August 8 - Zoom
Bay Area Puma Project
Alys Granados

September 12 - Zoom
North American Warblers
Joe Morlan

MEETING PROGRAMS

July 11 – Zoom

Avians in Aviation: Wildlife and Wildlife Hazards in an Airport Environment - Natalie Reeder

Natalie Reeder is a Wildlife Biologist at the East Bay Regional Park District. Over the course of her career, Natalie has worked with a variety of organisms, from Channel Island foxes to Lyme disease and sudden oak death, endangered reptiles and amphibians, and, of course, birds. Natalie became the first biologist at SFO in 2015 and served in that role for seven and a half years, building a natural resources program and science-based approach to wildlife hazard management in the airport environment. Especially interesting was a project to trap and relocate barn owls and red-tailed hawks, both species that are frequently hit by planes. Natalie will discuss wildlife issues at airports in general and share details of her time managing bird hazards at our busiest Bay Area airport.



August 8 – Zoom

Bay Area Puma Project - Alys Granados

The Bay Area Puma Project (BAPP) began in 2007 and is the first large scale research project, education, and conservation program for pumas in and around the San Francisco Bay Area. BAPP's primary goal is to increase knowledge, understanding, and awareness about Bay Area puma populations, in order to help foster a more harmonious relationship between humans and the natural world.

Alys Granados is a Wildlife ecologist with Felidae Conservation Fund and the Bay Area Puma Project, where she works with the Felidae team to study the effects of human encroachment on mountain lion persistence and health in urban edge environments. Alys previously worked on research projects in Canada, Malaysia, Cameroon, Uganda, Costa Rica, and Chile. She completed a PhD in Zoology at the University of British Columbia and her Master at Concordia University in Canada.



FELIDAE CONSERVATION FUND

September 12 – Zoom

North American Warblers: A Celebration – Joe Morlan

In addition to warbler identification and natural history, we will focus on their beauty, charm, and history of being THE bird family that birders can't get enough of. Joe will be sharing original photos taken in California, Texas and Ohio illustrating the great diversity of North American warblers. Join us for this entertaining and thought-provoking presentation.

Joe Morlan taught Field Ornithology at City College in San Francisco for forty years. He was awarded the ABA's Ludlow Griscom Award for outstanding contributions to regional ornithology in 2010 and served on the California Bird Records Committee for thirty years, most recently as chair. He's co-authored two books on birds and published numerous scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals.



Blackburnian Warbler (Setophaga fusca), May 17, 2022. Magee Marsh, Lucas, Ohio

Conservation Update

SAS continues to focus on developments in Redwood City. The plan for a **ferry terminal** at the end of Seaport Blvd. continues. Our volunteers attended a public meeting about this; SAS is joining with Green Foothills and the Sierra Club to submit a comment letter. There are many concerns for environmental impacts on wildlife and other issues, including a large cliff swallow colony which would be removed to build the proposed hotel; impacts on birds, seals and other wildlife in the sloughs and on adjacent Greco and Bair Islands, as well as the need for bird-safe design.

Redwood Life project in Redwood Shores has been eventful. In March, we led a birding walk for about 20 Redwood Shores residents at Nob Hill Pond, to increase awareness of the value of wildlife. We participated in a stakeholder meeting on April 17, where we and others made the point that adjacent wildlife is a community benefit. We also pushed for bird safe lighting and glass. On May 15 there was a Precise Plan Workshop, well attended by residents and others. The levee (and Bay Trail) along Belmont Slough by Redwood Life was closed due to failure, which adds concern to the plan to add more buildings and weight to the site.

OneShoreline's proposal for the Millbrae-Burlingame shoreline continues. In March we and other environmental organizations attended an in-person meeting with the CEO and Project Manager. The environmental orgs are trying to have the agency make public the comment letters received, which mostly see problems with the lagoon proposal.



Sequoia Audubon Name Change: Update

Given the recent national discussions about the well-documented background of John James Audubon, the Sequoia Audubon Society Board of Directors formed a committee to review our organization's name to see if it best fits our mission and values. Over the last few months, this committee created a questionnaire to solicit feedback from our current and past members, as well as from our local birding community. The questionnaire also requested input about what might be considered in a new name, were our name to be changed. The questionnaire was shared for two weeks in April through our mailing lists, local birding listservs, and our social media accounts.

The committee presented a report of the questionnaire responses to the board. Survey responses showed a clear majority supporting a more inclusive name. This majority, including many of our current and past members, expressed their desire to remove 'Audubon' and include a geographic area as an identifier in our organization's name. In light of this, the Sequoia Audubon Society Board of Directors has approved changing our name to one more representative of our organization's mission and values, eliminating the names 'Audubon' and 'Society' and including a geographic location.

No decision has been made on our new name. We hope to share our organization's new name this fall at the celebration of our 75th anniversary. *Melissa Hero and Marshall Dinowitz on behalf of the Name Change Committee.*



Long-billed Curlew, San Mateo County, Elizabeth Yicheng-Shen/Audubon Photography Awards



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.

Monday, July 1, Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve, Woodside (8:30 – 11:30) Join SAS for a 2-3 mile easy to moderate walk through varied landscape including scrub, open meadow, and forest along Horseshoe Pond where we can look for a mixture of grassland birds, raptors, waterfowl and, if we are lucky, Western Tanagers which are summer residents here. Porta-Potties are available in the north parking lot and ~ ½ way along the route. Directions: Meet at the Skyline Ridge Circle Parking Area. The preserve entrance is located about one mile south of the Page Mill/Alpine Rd and Skyline Blvd (Hwy 35) intersection. **Leader:** Karen Moody, moodylmz3@gmail.com Register: <https://bit.ly/4c2yWJi>

Monday, July 1, Still Creek, Woodside (8:30 – 11:00) Our ~2.5-mile hike will take us by tributaries of Alambique Creek to a historic logging bridge. The route has paved and unpaved roads of slight to moderate grade. 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 84 West, turn right on Skywood Way. Continue straight on Still Creek Rd. Once under redwoods (approx. 1/8 mile down the road), park along one side of curb. **Leader:** Christin New new.a.christin@gmail.com Register: <https://bit.ly/3KGCXHt>

Tuesday, July 2, Filoli, Woodside (9:30 – 12:00) Join us for a 2-2.5 mile moderate walk on the Filoli Gardens and Estate trail. Habitats include mixed oak, redwood, madrone woodlands, riparian corridor, and historic horse pastures. Restrooms are available. Directions: from Hwy 280, exit at 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. Entrance fee. **Leader:** Kimberlie Moutoux, kimberliemoutoux@gmail.com Register: <https://bit.ly/3KFoD1Q>

Sunday, July 21, Burleigh Murray State Park, Half Moon Bay (7:45 – 12:00) This is a leisurely 3-4 hour walk of ~3 miles in this bird-rich gem on a level, gravel, former ranch road leading to the historic barn. There are pit toilets along the trail. Directions: Take SR1 south from Half Moon Bay and then turn east on Higgins Canyon Rd. Due to limited parking, we will carpool up to the park. Meet at the lower parking lot for the Johnston House at 110 Higgins Canyon Rd. **Leader:** Ginny Marshall, ginnybirder@gmail.com Register: <https://bit.ly/3VI5anm>

Saturday, August 10, Palo Alto Baylands for Beginners/Families, Palo Alto (10:00 – 12:00) Meet in the parking lot for the Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center, 2775 Embarcadero Rd. for a leisurely walk on level trails where we will explore this San Francisco Bay treasure. We should see a variety of shorebirds, waterbirds, and spring migrants. Loaner binoculars available. **Leader:** JR Blair, jrblair20@gmail.com Register: <https://bit.ly/4b0uERj>

Friday, August 16, Filoli, Woodside (9:30 – 12:00) See July 2 field trip. Register: <https://bit.ly/3XvaoEa>

Saturday, September 7, Bedwell Bayfront Park (10:00 – 12:00) Beginner and family-friendly bird walk on fairly level trails exploring the upland and wetland areas of the park. Raptors, egrets, and LBBs (little brown birds) can be seen. Loaner binoculars available. Directions: From US 101, take Marsh Road east (SR84 East), then continue straight into the park. Meet in the parking lot near the restrooms. **Leader:** JR Blair, jrblair20@gmail.com Register: <https://bit.ly/3VKQ1C0>

Sunday, September 8, Still Creek, Woodside (8:30 – 11:00) See July 1 field trip. Register: <https://bit.ly/3z3Dtwz>

Monday, September 9, Filoli, Woodside (9:30 – 12:00) See July 2 field trip. Register: <https://bit.ly/45njpkE>

Saturday, September 14, Nob Hill Pond, Redwood Shores (10:00 – 12:00) A beginner and family-friendly bird walk in an excellent area to view a variety of ducks and waterbirds. Time permitting, we may check some other birding sites nearby. Restrooms are available in the nearby shopping center. Directions: From US 101, take the Redwood Shores Parkway exit east. Turn right at the second traffic signal on Twin Dolphin Dr. Meet in the parking lot past the east end of Twin Dolphin Dr (follow the road to the left of the hotel parking lot.) **Leader:** JR Blair, jrblair20@gmail.com Register: <https://bit.ly/3VI11o9>

Wednesday, September 18, Coyote Point Recreational Area, San Mateo (8:00 – 11:00) Meet us for a leisurely stroll around Coyote Point. With the large variety of habitats at Coyote Point, we should see a number of species. With luck we may see the resident Harlequin Duck. Restrooms available. Directions: Exit Peninsula Ave. from US 101 and follow the signs. 1701 Coyote Point Drive. Meet near the yacht club. \$6 admission charge. **Leader:** Donna Pomeroy dpom@comcast.net Register: <https://bit.ly/3yYhPd8>

Consider sharing your enthusiasm for birds by becoming a field trip leader or co-leader. One doesn't have to be an expert; we'll train you and provide support to make it an enjoyable experience for all! Or if you know of some other areas that would be good for outings, please email fieldtrips@sequoia-audubon.org.

OFFICERS

Acting President: John Epperson

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Melissa Hero

Treasurer: Julie Dull

At Large: Doug Brown, Joyce Courtney, Beverly Cronin, Marshall Dinowitz, Nelle Lyons, Chris MacIntosh

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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SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, October 6, 2024

Sequoia Audubon Society

75th Anniversary Celebration

Twin Pines Park, Belmont

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: 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:

General: <http://sequoia-audubon@groups.io>

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

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