

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

Oct. 2014 - Dec. 2014

Volume 65, No. 4

#### What Do You and a Rescued Rail Have in Common? By Susan Rowinski



Virginia Rail Photo by Larry Kay

The first weekend of June a group of us took off for a birding trip to the Northern Sierra Nevada Mountains. While birding in a marshy area of Sierra Valley, an adult Virginia Rail was found dangling from a cattle fence because a barb impaled its leg. Luckily it was still alive and was released in good shape into an adjacent marsh. This incident is an example of the hazards imposed on birds by man-made objects. In this case a barbed-wire cattle fence. While many of you do not have cattle fences around your home, you do have other hazards such as glass windows.

According to the American Bird Conservancy over 300 million birds die each year from collisions with glass windows. Luckily, there are some simple measures you can take to reduce bird-window collisions.

Not all windows are hazardous. Walk outside and first identify windows that are reflective such as shown below.



Birds fly into windows because they cannot differentiate reflections from trees, plants and the sky. Your objective is to reduce the reflection.

According to American Bird Conservancy, vertical or horizontal strips (3) inches apart applied on the outside should reduce bird-

#### **Monthly Meetings**

San Mateo Garden Center

Note Change in November

**Meeting** 

**October** 

Thursday, Oct. 9th 7 pm

Mountain Kingdom of Bhutan

**November** 

Wednesday, Nov. 19th 7:30 pm

**Passenger Pigeons** 

**December** 

Thursday, Dec, 11<sup>th</sup> 7 pm Seeing Rare Birds in California

# **Upcoming Field Trips**

#### **October**

Wed.1st Pescadero State Beach

Thur. 2<sup>nd</sup> Hawk Hill

Sun. 5th Pescadero Marsh

Sun. 12th Edgewood County Park

Sat. 18th Half Moon Bay

Sun. 19th Pescadero Marsh

Sat. 25th Filoli

#### **November**

Sun. 2<sup>nd</sup> Pescadero Marsh

Wed. 5th Wavecrest, HMB

Sun. 9th Edgewood County Park

Sun. 16<sup>th</sup> Redwood Shores &

Pescadero Marsh

Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> Foster City

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#### **Online Birding Guide:**

www.birding.sequoia-audubon.org http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ SequoiaAudubon

#### **Facebook:**

https://www.facebook.com/ SequoiaAudubon

## MEETING PROGRAMS

# Birds and Buddhism in the Land of the Thunder Dragon. A Natural History Adventure in the Mountain Kingdom of Bhutan Speakers: Allan Ridley & Helen McKenna-Ridley Thursday, October 9, 7:00pm

In April 2008 Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna-Ridley enjoyed a three-week exploration of the mountain kingdom of Bhutan. Their presentation highlights the beautiful mountain habitats of this isolated Himalayan country and the exciting wildlife they were fortunate to observe and photograph. They will discuss and illustrate the historic importance of Buddhism in Bhutan for preservation of habitat and wildlife. The contemporary economic situation of the people of Bhutan will be considered, finding hope for the future of this new democracy, in its stable social values, education of the young and careful development of eco-tourism.

Allan Ridley, MS, taught biology and ornithology at the Urban School of San Francisco. Helen McKenna-Ridley, MS, taught biology at George Washington High School and was Principal of Raoul Wallenberg High School. Together they have traveled widely and have led birding and natural history trips to Costa Rica, Ecuador, New Zealand and Australia. On the first Sunday of each month they lead a bird walk through the San Francisco Botanical Garden in Golden Gate Park.

#### **November Program**

# SPECIAL CO-SPONSORED GENERAL MEETING WITH SANTA CLARA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

(Note: Date, time and location change from our regular monthly meetings.

There will be no meeting on Thursday, November 13th)

The Echoes of their Wings: The Life and Legacy of the Passenger Pigeon Speaker: Joel Greenberg Wednesday, November 19

> Refreshments at 7:30 pm, program at 8 pm Cubberley Community Center, Room H1 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

Thanks to the generosity of SCVAS contributing half of the expenses for this special program, we are excited to present, Joel Greenberg, author and researcher who works at the Chicago Academy of Sciences. Joel Greenberg explores the story of the Passenger Pigeon and highlights the important lessons that it presents to those of us in the 21st century. The Passenger Pigeon was unlike any other bird. It probably numbered in the billions, making it the most abundant bird in North America if not the world. But this huge population was neither evenly distributed across the landscape nor was it any way cryptic: the species often formed aggregations so vast they are difficult for us to imagine. John James Audubon described a flight that darkened the sky for three days, and a nesting in 1871 spread across 850 square miles of central Wisconsin. A single flight around 1860 probably exceeded a billion birds and maybe as many as three billion. Exploitation for food and recreation destroyed the species in the wild by the first few years of the twentieth century. On September 1, 1914, Martha, the last of the species, died in the Cincinnati Zoo. Joel Greenberg has over 25 years experience working on natural resource

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# For Pescadero Marsh State Park Docent Walks: www.coastsidestateparks.org/pages/marsh.html

#### **Pescadero State Beach**

#### Wednesday, October 1, 8:00 am - noon

We will meet at the furthest end of the second (middle) parking lot for Pescadero State Beach. This is the dirt parking lot just south of the creek mouth. It does not require a fee. We will spend some time looking for shorebirds and seabirds from the bluff, then drive a short distance to another part of the park to look for landbirds. There is a wide variety of habitats in this park and we will hope to see quite a few species. Scopes will be very useful on this trip, so bring one along if you have one. Expect cool and breezy weather here, but warmer when we go inland.

Directions: From Half Moon Bay, take Highway 1 south, about 15 miles toward Santa Cruz. As you approach Pescadero, you will see extensive marsh on the east side of the highway and the second parking lot will be on your right, just after you cross the bridge over Pescadero Creek mouth.

**Leader:** Donna Pomeroy dpom@comcast.net

#### Hawk Hill, Marin Headlands Thursday, October 2, 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..

Leader: Robbie Fischer robbie22@pacbell.net

#### **Edgewood County Park**

Sunday, October 12, 8:00 am - hike will last 3-4 hours Explore this gem of a park with Susie Hons. Hike through oak woodlands and natural meadows. Look for California Thrasher, Wrentit, Oak Titmouse and Western Bluebird year round. Hike 3-5 miles with some hills. Directions:

	<u>November</u>
Sat. 29th	Pescadero State Beach
	<u>December</u>
Wed. 3rd	Millbrae Bayfront
Sat. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Cowell - Purisima Trail
Sun. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Pescadero Marsh
Sun. 21st	Pescadero Marsh

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 susieturtlewings@mac.com

#### **Half Moon Bay Migrant Spots** Saturday, Oct. 18, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

We will meet at the Half Moon Bay Water Treatment Plant for the first leg of our trip. This gem of a birding hotspot can be fantastic for migrating warblers and other fall birds. The surrounding weedy fields are also good for unusual sparrows. We will spend time checking the fields and then go into the rich riparian area under the alders, which border Pilarcitos Creek as it flows to the ocean. From there we will caravan a short distance to (free) neighborhood parking along the north end of Pilarcitos Ave. at Wave Ave. and adjacent streets. For our second leg of our trip, we will then walk towards the beach, where we walk north and take a look at the bluff top area and beach for seabirds along Venice State Beach. We will then do the loop walk through Sweetwood Park looking for migrants. There are restrooms at the Venice Beach parking area. Directions: We will meet at the Half Moon Bay Water Treatment Plant dirt parking area. The official address for the HMB Water Treatment Plant aka Half Moon Bay Sewer Authority is 1000 N. Cabrillo Hwy. However, the actual street where this is located is Bev Cunha Country Rd, which is accessed off the frontage Rd that parallels Hwy 1. From Hwy 1 take the Kehoe Ave. exit then turn left onto the frontage Rd then turn right onto Bev Cunha County Rd. Park at the dirt parking. For more information check out the San Mateo County Birding Guide description for this site. Heavy Rain Cancels

Leaders: Malia DeFelice and Chris Hayward malia.defelice.sas@gmail.com

650-346-2009 (call if you are running late or lost)

#### Filoli Estate, Woodside

#### Saturday, October 25, 8:30 am to noon

Filoli Estate is the property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. We have been invited for a morning of birding

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at this beautiful site on the edge of the San Francisco watershed land. The grounds of Filoli have a beautiful formal garden surrounded by large oaks and trails leading to riparian, redwood and farm habitats. Over 96 species of birds have been found here. Reservations required because this trip is limited to 20 people maximum (sorry, no children under 14). Participants may remain after the field trip to walk through the house and /or formal gardens at no charge. No food or picnicking is allowed but light food and beverages at the Cafe are available for purchase and the gift shop will be open. The Filoli Estate will close to the public after this weekend for the remainder of 2014 (except for Holiday Traditions.)

**Directions:** Take Hwy 280 to the Edgewood Road exit; go west. Turn right/north on Canada Road and drive approx one mile to the entrance of Filoli. We will meet in front of the Visitors Center. Heavy Rain Cancels.

Call Sue James (650) 348-0315 to reserve your spot.

Leaders: Sue James and Martha O'Neal

#### Wavecrest, Half Moon Bay Wednesday, November 5, 9:00 am -noon

The focus on this trip will be on raptors. The grasslands of Wavecrest are an important wintering ground for a variety of species of raptors, especially White-tailed Kites, Northern Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks, as well as Redshouldered Hawks and American Kestrels. The numbers of these birds here are impressive. We will also walk down to the bluffs overlooking the ocean and look for shorebirds and waterbirds. Expect cool and breezy weather. Scopes will be useful here, so bring one along if you have one. **Directions:** Meet at the west end of Wavecrest Road by the ballfields. Wavecrest Road is 1.5 miles south of Highways 1 & 92 in Half Moon Bay at the intersection with the red double-decker bus at Cameron's Pub and Inn.

Leader: Donna Pomeroy dpom@comcast.net

#### **Edgewood County Park**

Sunday, November 9, 8:00 am - hike will last 3-4 hours See description for October 12.

**Leader:** Susie Hons susieturtlewings@mac.com

#### **Redwood Shores**

#### Sunday, November 16, 8:30 am - noon

Redwood Shores is more than Radio Road. Learn some of the other great places to bird. Nob Hill Pond, Davit Lane, Starboard and Marlin Parks, and the Sofitel Lagoon are some of the sites we will visit. We will take an approximately 5 mile walk over flat terrain, passing several restrooms.

**Directions:** Meet at 8:30 in front of Starbucks, next to Nob

Hill Market located on Redwood Shores Parkway, about 1/3 mile east of the Holly Street/Redwood Shores Parkway exit off Highway 101.

Leader: Sonny Mencher soccerquiz@yahoo.com

#### **Foster City**

## Saturday, November 22, 8:30 am - noon

Explore the ins and outs of Foster City - the Shell Bar, Sea Cloud Park, Port Royal and other little known spots. This will be a walking/driving field trip. Dress in layers, wear good shoes and bring a scope if you have one. Meet at the small parking lot at Port Royal and Rock Harbor Lane. Directions: from Hwy 101, take Hillsdale Blvd. east. Turn right on Edgewater Blvd. and follow to the second Port Royal turn. Turn right on Port Royal and at the point were the road turns right, turn left in to the little parking lot at Rock Harbor Lane. Rain cancels.

Leader: Leslie Flint lflint@earthlink.net

#### Pescadero State Beach and Environs Saturday, Nov. 29, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

We will meet at the furthest end of the second (middle) parking lot for Pescadero State Beach. This is the parking lot just south of the creek mouth. It does not require a fee. We will spend some time looking for shorebirds and seabirds from the bluff. We will then drive a short distance to a dirt parking lot at the intersection of Hwy 1 and Pescadero Rd. where we will journey into the marsh and walk along trails which will allow us to view waterfowl, herons, egrets, raptors and other marsh birds up close and personal. If time and energy allows, we will head over to Water Lane to look for land birds. Water Lane takes us to the "back" of the marsh and is a great spot for warblers in fall and winter. There are a wide variety of habitats in this park and we will hope to see quite a few species. Expect cool and breezy weather here, but warmer when we go inland. Restrooms are located at the first parking lot. Heavy rain cancels. Directions: From Half Moon Bay, take Highway 1 south, about 15 miles toward Santa Cruz. As you approach Pescadero, you will see an extensive marsh on the east side of the highway and the second parking lot will be on your right, just after you cross the bridge over Pescadero Creek mouth. Heavy Rain Cancels

Leaders: Malia DeFelice and Chris Hayward malia.defelice.sas@gmail.com

650-346-2009 (call if you are running late or lost)

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#### Millbrae Bayfront Park Wednesday, December 3, 8:30 am -10:30 am

Millbrae Bayfront Park is one of the best locations in San Mateo County to look for the endangered California Clapper Rail. As high tide approaches at 9:30, we will have an excellent chance to see this normally elusive bird out in the open. This is also an excellent location to view the large number of ducks and shorebirds that use this part of San Francisco Bay as a wintering ground. Meet at the free public parking for the Marriott Hotel.

Directions: Bayfront Park is located at the corner of Millbrae Ave. and Old Bayshore. Take US 101 to the Millbrae exit, and go east. Where Millbrae Ave. ends, turn right onto Bayshore Hwy. Take your next available left (a turn lane is provided) into the Marriot Hotel's parking lot, and bear left. There are a handful of spaces set aside for Bayfront Park.

There are a handful of overflow spaces in the Westin lot, which is the first right off of Bayshore after you turn off of

Leader: Donna Pomeroy dpom@comcast.net

#### **Cowell-Purisima Trail** Saturday, Dec. 6, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Work off those Thanksgiving meals with a long, but easy, hike along our sumptuous coast! This morning's field trip will explore the new Cowell-Purisima Trail, opened by Peninsula Open Space Trust last year. We will be looking for raptors and grassland birds like sparrows and meadowlarks. Ocean views provide good sea watching opportunities for sea birds. This area features the coastal terrace prairie habitat, similar to Wavecrest and Blufftop parks further north in Half Moon Bay. At the turnaround point of our walk, there is a good riparian area where we can search for wintering warblers. This trip would be especially appropriate for photographers - both new and experienced - because of the sweeping vistas and hawks in flight. The plan is to walk a 4-mile roundtrip to the creek and back. The walk is flat except for the last descent into the creek area and return ascent back to the flat trail. There are restrooms at the parking lot. Heavy rain cancels. Directions: meet at the parking lot on California Route 1, about three miles south of 92, across from Bob's produce stand. Information: <a href="http://www.openspacetrust.org/">http://www.openspacetrust.org/</a> activities/ outings cowell purisima trail.html

Leaders: Malia DeFelice and Chris Hayward malia.defelice.sas@gmail.com 650-346-2009 (call if you are running late or lost)

A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song. Chinese Proverb

#### 2014 Christmas Bird Counts

The annual Christmas Bird Counts for San Mateo County are among Sequoia Audubon's favorite traditions. Sequoia's first Crystal Springs count was in 1948 with Santa Clara Audubon and began regular annual counts in 1955. The Ano Nuevo Count began in 1972. Participation in the count is free.

Crystal Springs CBC, Sunday, December 14, 2014 The compilation dinner will take place at Bel-Mateo Shopping Center Round Table Pizza, 61 – 43rd Ave. San Mateo.

#### Ano Neuvo CBC, Saturday, January 3, 2015

This year our compilation dinner will again be held at a Ranch on the Coast with guests invited.

#### How to Register for the Christmas Bird Count

Participants can register online, using a form that will be linked from the CBC announcement on the webpage or they can contact the CBC Coordinators directly via email. Registration for the Crystal Springs Count will close on December 3 and December 24 for the Ano Nuevo Count to give the coordinators time to organize the teams and provide all participants with instructions and information. **Questions?** For more information about the two Christmas Bird Counts, send an email to Leslie Flint, Coordinator lflint@earthlink.net

#### **Return of the San Mateo County Cumulative Year List** By Jennifer Rycenga

Great news for San Mateo County's bird record-keeping! Leonie Batkin and Malia DeFelice have volunteered as a team to re-start the cumulative year bird records for San Mateo County. Many counties and states across the country maintain similar records.

Leonie and Malia are retrieving data to complete 2013 and they are now publishing 2014.

The data will continue to be published on the Sequoia Audubon website <a href="http://www.sequoia-audubon.org/">http://www.sequoia-audubon.org/</a> SMCbirds.php There will also be a monthly email in Peninsula-birding with a summary of the previous month's events. This project requires an incredible amount of time spent reviewing postings on Peninsula-birding, E-bird, the Northern California Birdbox, Christmas Bird Count records and personal emails. Advising Leonia and Malia are nationally recognized birders: Peter Metropulos, Ron Thorn and Alvaro Jaramillo. Our volunteer team is dedicated to the goal of recording accurate bird sightings for San Mateo County. With good reporting, our county will garner continued respect for contributing to a larger scientific data base of bird records for the state, the nation and the world.

#### (Cover Story-Continued from page 1)

window collisions. Installing vertical or horizontal blinds or pulling your curtains closed can reduce the reflection. Other options include installing a screen or stretching lightweight netting over the window or using tempera paint





or decals that do not obscure your view but break up the reflection.

We all like feeders and bird baths close to our windows.

Doing so can lead to bird-window collisions. Move feeders and baths away from windows, reflective or not, at least 20 feet. Give the birds room to land and to take off, especially if they get startled, which as we know happens often. For more information on common sense things you can do to help reduce bird-glass collisions visit the American Bird Conservancy link <a href="http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/collisions/index.html">http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/collisions/index.html</a>

(Ed: Cornell Lab eNews Aug 2014 recommended an article on the subject in Living Bird Magazine Winter 2014 by Pat Leonard. Solutions mentioned in the article include hanging strings, applying soap, or tape, such as ABC's BirdTape to the outside of the window. Also some glass manufacturers are now glazing windows with patterns that reflect ultraviolet light, which most birds can see.)

(Ed: I heard this story recently from a friend and thought it would complement the article on page 1.)

## Another Rescue Attempt Story or Crows are so smart! By Deb Gwin, Burlingame

Two years ago on a windy spring day my husband, Bruce, and I were mowing the front lawn. Plopped in the middle of it was a baby crow that must have fallen out of its nest in the adjoining trees. The wind was pretty brisk. We watched two birds nearby who seemed to be coaching him to fly, but one of his wings was hanging a little low. Finally, with dusk approaching, we decided to take him to the nearby animal shelter at Coyote Point to recover. Our neighborhood is too full of cats for a bird to spend the night on the ground.

We put the little guy gently into a shoe box and set off in the car to the shelter. The moon roof of the car was open. Up above us we noticed the two parent birds flying along with us. We wondered how far they would follow, and how they could know their baby was inside. They in fact followed us the whole way to the shelter, and back home again. Their lecturing caws were relentless. The next day, we called the shelter to ask if we could have Baby back when he improved. We couldn't stand the ruckus the parents were making. Unfortunately, he hadn't survived the night. We tried to explain the situation to the cawing parents, but they were having none of it. Throughout the summer, they watched every morning for our kitchen shades to open. Then the haranguing would begin. Dinner on the patio required ear plugs. By fall, we could apologize to one parent and get some relief, but the other parent never forgave us for an instant. By the next summer, we had somewhat forgotten its voice, but believe it occasionally reminded us again of our shortcomings. Interspecies apologies are not so good!

(Programs-Continued from page 2)

related issues in the Midwest. He has authored four books including *Of Prairie, Woods, and Waters: Two Centuries of Chicago Nature Writing* (2008, University of Chicago Press.), *A Natural History of the Chicago Region* (2002, University of Chicago Press) and the forth just published in January 2014, *A Feathered River Across the Sky: ThePassenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction.* For the past four years he has been a leader in Project Passenger Pigeon



which aims to mark the anniversary of the species extinction. He coproduced with director David Mrazek the documentary, From Billions to None: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction that will be aired on a variety of PBS affiliates this fall. Joel's book will be available for sale at the meeting.

Passanger Pigeons Image by J.J. Audubon

Seeing Rare Birds in

#### California:

Why our state list is the largest in the US at 657 species and how you can help find more Speaker: Joe Morlan Thursday, December 11, 7pm

Joe Morlan will discuss recent expansion of the California State list and the contributions by active birders in detecting new species for the state. Joe will offer tips on finding and documenting rarities and how listing can help advance our understanding of distribution and status of some of the rarest birds in the state. Please join us for what promises to be an informative and entertaining presentation.

Check out Joe's superb website (fog.ccsf.cc.ca.us/jmorlan/l). He is co-author of "Birds of San Francisco and the Bay Area" and "Birds of Northern California." He has taught birding classes for adults through the San Francisco Unified School District. He is the winner of the American Birding Association's Ludlow Griscom Award for 2010.

# **Other Birding Activities**

(SAS does not sponsor the following activities)

#### SFBBO's California Fall Challenge: Sept 13 – Oct 12

During the CFC, SFBBO is hosting a bird photography contest, a kids bird art contest, and 21 bird watching trips (some especially for families) to raise money for their bird conservation work.

Bird Photo Contest: Enter by Oct 5th, 2014, to win great prizes! Categories are "Bird Behavior," Birds and Habitats," "Birds and Humans," and "Bird Portraits."

Free Kids Bird Art Contest: Kids ages 3-17 can compete in a free Bird Art Contest from Sept. 13-Oct. 12, 2014. The theme is "Birds in Nature."

#### Six Expert-led Guided Trips are offered in October:

Hermit Thrush Migration - Allison Nelson - Sat., Oct. 4 Kayaking the South Bay, Beginner Group - Cat Burns and Jason St. Pierre - Sat., Oct. 4

Vivacious Vireos - Gina Barton- Sat., Oct. 4 Wandering Vagrants - Scott Terrill - Sun., Oct. 5 Family Bird Banding Demo - Tom Stewart and Martha Castillo - Sat., Oct. 11

Exploring the Marsh, a Bird Adventure for Families -David Thomson and Cheryl Strong- Sat., Oct. 12 For information visit www.sfbbo.org.

#### 18th Annual Sandhill Crane Festival November 7-9, Hutchins Street Square, Lodi, CA

For 17 years, Lodi's Sandhill Crane Festival has celebrated the return of the cranes. In partnership with the City of Lodi, the festival offers tours, workshops, art show and much more.

Contact: info@cranefestival.com or 800-581-6150 or http://www.cranefestival.com/

#### 18th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium November 20-23, Stockton, CA

Stockton Hilton Hotel, 209-957-9090 (hotel reservations) Activities include field trips, Bird ID Panel, Birder's Market and workshops led by Joe Morlan, Keith Hansen and Jon Dunn among others. Saturday's Keynote Speaker is Joel Greenberg - The Echoes of Their Wings: The Life and Legacy of the Passenger Pigeon

Contact: <a href="http://www.2013cvbs.org/">http://www.2013cvbs.org/</a>

#### **Monthly Meetings**

San Mateo Garden Center 605 Parkside Way. San Mateo

(Parkside Way is west of Alameda de las Pulgas, between 26th and 28th Avenues)

# **Conservation**

#### Egret/Heron Rookery at the Port of Redwood City

August 2, 2014: Last survey report from San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory:

Unofficial numbers/trends:

Snowy Egrets – 16 nests, 30 adults, 19 young

Great Egrets – 4 nests, 7 adults, 7 young

Black-crowned Night Herons – 23 nests, 22 adults, 19 voung

These are the same numbers that were reported in late June so the colony seems to be holding pretty steady. SFBBO will soon be analyzing the data from the entire Colonial Waterbird Program and compiling a final report. Thanks to SAS members who assisted in our efforts to inform the public about the importance of protecting this valuable natural asset.



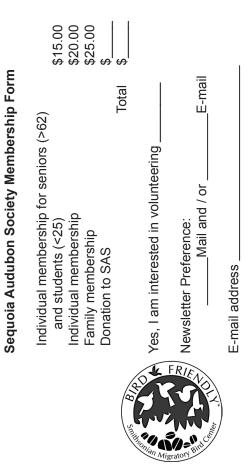
Snowy Plover Photo by **Bob Cossins** 

#### **Pacifica Snowy Plovers Get Protection By Margaret Goodale**

It was a thrilling morning for 45 volunteers on Friday, August 15, 2014 when Pacifica State Beach Snowy Plovers, a threatened species, finally received a sliver of flat beach where they will no longer face constant threats from human and canine disturbance. With the capable help of a Public Works crew, over 950 feet of symbolic fencing was installed and decorated with signs designed by Ocean Shore School second graders.

This project was spearheaded by the Pacifica Shorebird Alliance. The funding came from Audubon California and was managed by SAS. It provided for all materials, tools, and the production of charming signs using drawings by ten local school children.

Kelley Nelson of Audubon California, the remarkable State Parks representatives Nelle Lyons and Joanne Kervabaz, SAS's Leslie Flint, and Kate Symonds from USFWS joined the happy volunteers. Symonds will be overseeing compliance for USFWS funding of the regulatory signage and permanent fence that the city will eventually erect along the bike path east of the plover habitat and dunes.



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During our monthly public meetings SAS proudly serves Bird Friendly coffee certified by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. SMBC Bird Friendly® coffee is 100% organic & shade grown. SAS serves SMBC coffee because it supports our mission, to conserve and educate. For more information on SMBC coffee and how to purchase some visit: <a href="http://nationalzoo.si.edu/SCBI/MigratoryBirds/Coffee/default.cfm">http://nationalzoo.si.edu/SCBI/MigratoryBirds/Coffee/default.cfm</a>

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http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-6092953 When you do, 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases will be donated to SAS. Thanks for the support -- and don't forget to tell your friends!

# **Special Fall Events**

#### The Fourth Annual SAS Pescadero BIG SIT! Sunday, Oct. 12

Relaxed all-day event - the birding equivalent of a tailgate party - will be conducted at Pescadero State Beach, on a hilltop overlooking the North Marsh. This event is also a pledge fundraiser for SAS. Be a part of the bird-watching team, the SASsy Seawatchers, be a pledge seeker, or a pledge donor - PARTICIPATE! There will be PRIZES!!!

#### **RAPTORAMA!** Nov. 7-9

SAS will co-sponsor, with Coastside Land Trust, a 3-day celebration of the birds of Wavecrest, specifically the large numbers of birds of prey that use this special coastal area in Half Moon Bay. Visit Coastside Land Trust on the web at www.coastsidelandtrust.org

See our website for more information and developments on all of these events. www.sequoia-audubon.org

# 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.